

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:338
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015
THEFT OF POWER
Diwakar Shri Rajesh Kumar

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether power theft is adversely affecting the growth of power sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a plan in consultation with the States to check the power theft in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including penal provisions proposed for guilty?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PMUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 338 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 19.03.2015 REGARDING THEFT OF POWER.

(a) : Yes, Madam. Power theft including Technical losses in the distribution system is adversely affecting the growth of power sector. The technical losses and commercial losses which capture the losses on account of theft also, are being measured as AT&C (Aggregate Technical & Commercial) Losses.

(b) : As per the Report on Performance of Power Utilities published by Power Finance Corporation (PFC), the Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) Losses at national level during the year 2011-12 , 2012-13 and 2013-14 (for 36 utilities only), Discom wise are given at Annex-I.

For checking theft of electricity, the Electricity Act, 2003 has incorporated specific provisions for detection of theft, speedy trial of theft related offences and also for the recovery of the charges of electricity stolen.

The Electricity Act, 2003 provides a legal framework for making theft of electricity a cognizable offence. Based on the feedback from the States and other stakeholders, the Central Government has further strengthened the theft related provisions in the Act by enacting the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007. By this amendment, theft of electricity has been explicitly made a cognizable and non-bailable offence.

The details of cases related to theft of electricity filed in Special courts set up by various States/Union Territories during last 4 years i.e 2011-12, 2012-13 , 2013-14 & 2014-15 (up to Nov. 2014), number of theft cases in which prosecution has taken place and number of theft cases in which the penalty has been awarded/judgment passed by the Courts during above years as received from States/UTs are enclosed at Annex-II .

(c) : The reduction of technical and commercial losses is one of the critical components for improving distribution segment which comes within the purview of the State Governments and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. The Central Government supplements the efforts of States through various schemes for improvement of the distribution sector of the state, such as Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), National Electricity Fund (NEF) and Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP) etc.

Additional financial assistance under IPDS & DDUGJY is available to States and is linked to the outcome of performance in terms of reduction in AT&C losses as per the trajectory finalized by Government of India in consultation with the State Utilities. Also, benefits under NEF & FRP are linked to reduction in AT&C losses. Details in respect of these schemes and AT&C loss trajectory are at Annex-III & Annex IV.

(d) : The penal provisions on theft of electricity have been made more stringent by incorporating the provisions under Section 151B of Electricity Act, 2003 through an amendment by the Government of India in the year 2007 wherein offence punishable under sections

135 to 140 and section 150 of Electricity Act, 2003 including theft of electricity is cognizable and non-bailable.