

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3882
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015
OPEN ACCESS POLICY
Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details and salient features of the Open Access Policy;

(b) whether the Open Access Policy is likely to provide benefits to retail electricity consumers consuming less than 1 MW demand of power; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) : Open Access is one of key features of the Electricity Act, 2003. Open Access is defined in the Electricity Act, 2003 as the "Non-Discriminatory provision for the use of transmission lines or distribution system or associated facilities with such lines or system by any licensee or consumer or a person engaged in generation in accordance with the regulations specified by the Appropriate Commission." The relevant provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 are at Annex-I.

(b) & (c) : Open Access to consumers seeks to introduce competition in the Distribution sector and is expected to result in consumer benefits in terms of affordability, reliability and price competitiveness of power through market discovered tariff. The Act itself provides for a framework of open access for the consumers with contract demand of 1 MW and above in a time bound manner. As regards other consumers

(with contract demand of less than 1 MW), the Act empowers the State Commission to introduce open access in phases. As per the information available with the Forum of Regulators (FOR) Secretariat, a statement indicating the status of regulations issued by State Electricity Regulatory Commission/Joints Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERCs/JERCs) on open access is enclosed as Annex-II.