

from one area to another area of Delhi, you have to choose another distributor and the problem of the consumer is of paramount importance. It is very difficult for him. For example, he has to take the cylinder and the equipment to the original distributor, get the voucher, take it to the new distributor and get it done. This causes a lot of inconvenience. Will the Minister take the initiative—i.e. once a consumer shifts from one area to another area, and asks the nearest distributor to give it, will the Minister give instructions to do that, without causing inconvenience to the consumers?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: The suggestion is worth considering, for the simple reason that when a particular person shifts from one place to another, it is possible that the company which supplies cylinders, changes. Because it is a matter between two companies, what happens is that they would like that the card is surrendered, and they return the deposit amount. And he is very much right that they will say: 'The equipment part of it you must surrender and then go; and on the basis of the transfer voucher you take—by depositing the fresh amount which has already been re-paid by the other company. This is a matter to be settled between the two companies. I will certainly consider and try to advise them that in such types of cases, there should not be any type of difficulty for the people at large—when book adjustments can always be made.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: In view of the fact that the supply position of gas has improved very much, and the Government is going to release a large number of gas connections to the consumers; may I know from the Minister the necessity for going into all the formalities in the case of transfer? Because transfer means transfer of a gas connection from one person to another. Therefore, why this cumbersome process? Will not the Minister agree that the transfer should be automatic in view of the large supply of gas to the consumers? What is the purpose behind these schemes?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I don't think that there should be any correlation

between gas production or large availability thereof, and the transfer of gas connections. These are two different aspects. I have already said that if, as a matter of routine as is suggested, transfers are to be allowed, there is likelihood of malpractices—in the sense....

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: After all, it is the consumer who gets it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: What would happen is that those who are preference; and this person would be given undue preference by virtue of the transfer. This is what I wanted to say. It is true that there is likelihood of a large availability of gas. But we cannot allow people to jump the queue on the basis of the whim and fancy of a particular person, to allow it to be transferred in favour of somebody, and there again this man is standing in the queue. My own feeling is that these are two incongruous things and have no correlation.

Power Losses in Transmission

*420. **SHRI B. R. NAHATA:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the transmission and distribution losses of power in each State during the last two years and the steps being taken to reduce these transmission and distribution losses;

(b) whether in this background, Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board has any arrangements for laying a 400 KV transmission line on departmental basis; and

(c) whether any such facility exists in other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The percentage of transmission and distribution losses in each State during the

last two years 1979-80 and 1980-81 is given in the Annexure.

The Central Electricity Authority has circulated necessary guidelines for reduction of T & D losses which are being followed by most of the State Electricity Boards to the extent possible. The main steps outlined for reducing the losses are as follows:—

(i) Identification of the weak areas having excessive losses and formulation of system improvement schemes for reduction of losses.

(ii) Planning of new distribution systems to cater to the load growth over the next seven to ten years to keep the system losses to the utmost minimum.

(iii) Augmentation of the existing transmission and distribution system on the basis of the system studies to minimise the losses.

(iv) Installation of capacitors on lower power factor meters by the consumers to curtail losses on this account.

(v) Constant vigilance and effective administrative measures to curb losses due to theft of energy.

(b) Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board has the required arrangements for laying 400 KV transmission lines on departmental basis.

(c) The Beas Construction Board and Maharashtra State Electricity Board have also facilities for laying 400 KV lines departmentally.

Annexure

The Percentage of Transmission and Distribution Losses in the various States during the last two years (i.e. 1979-80 & 1980-81).

S. No.	Name of the State	1979-80	1980-81
		Per-centage of	losses TD
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	22.39	22.69
2	Assam	19.23	20.28
3	Bihar	24.53	21.38
4	Gujarat	16.71	19.68
5	Haryana	28.14	23.66
6	Himachal Pradesh	18.55	NA
7	Jammu & Kashmir	47.01	NA
8	Karnataka	20.97	22.33
9	Kerala	15.90	14.57
10	Madhya Pradesh	22.30	22.40
11	Maharashtra	16.10	16.39
12	Manipur	47.24	45.76
13	Meghalaya	4.32	9.93
14	Nagaland	32.42	26.59

1	2	3	4
15	Orissa	18.29	19.81
16	Punjab	22.50	19.47
17	Rajasthan	24.40	25.97
18	Sikkim	20.51	NA
19	Tamil Nadu	19.58	18.92
20	Tripura	31.95	33.97
21	Uttar Pradesh	19.00	16.19
22	West Bengal	12.26	13.49

The figures for 1980-81 are provisional
NA.— Not available.

SHRI B. R. NAHATA: In the answer it has been said that there has been an identification of the weak areas having excessive losses and formulation of system improvement schemes for reduction of losses and planning of new distribution systems to cater to the load growth over the next seven to ten years to keep the system losses to the utmost minimum.

In view of this answer that has been given and the table that has also been given, the T & D losses have been increasing from the years 1979 to 1981. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister which areas have been identified as weak areas having excessive losses and what concrete steps have been taken in those areas and since when and what has been the result? (b) For which areas planning has been done for new distribution system to cater to the load growth? Since when it has been started and in which areas it has been implemented and what has been its results? (c) what have been the losses during these years of the Electricity Boards or projects in money terms in the years 1979-80 and 1980-81 because of T.D. losses?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): During the last five years, the transmission and distribution losses in the country have remained at a level

of about 20 per cent. The losses in the main transmission lines of 400 KV, 200 KV and 132 KV are of the order of about 5 per cent and the remaining 15 per cent occur in the sub-transmission lines, that is of 33 KV below and the distribution system of 400 watts. The sub-transmission and distribution system in all the States therefore requires a considerable strengthening of the system to bring down the transmission and distribution losses. The Boards have not been spending the full plan provisions on strengthening of the sub-transmission lines and distribution lines; and in most of the cases, there has been a diversion of funds to generation. Everywhere, almost in every State, when the question of rural electrification starts, the distribution system is very weak; and due to this weakness, transmission losses to the extent of 20 per cent are there. If we have to strengthen this, we have to spend a lot of money and the State Electricity Boards should not divert the funds. Now, normally the tendency is for the State Electricity Boards to divert the funds and to spend the money on the generation aspect. This must come to a halt. We have advised the State Electricity Boards accordingly to utilize the full funds provided for transmission and distribution and not to effect any diversion to generation Projects. Now, even according to Rajadyaksha Committee, which is supposed to be a very expert committee,

they have made recommendations that transmission and distribution losses in our country can be brought down to 15 per cent as against 20 per cent after a couple of years by taking various corrective measures of strengthening the distribution and transmission system and using "shunt capacitors. The transmission losses in India cannot be brought to level of advanced countries as our transmission system to feed rural areas is comparatively... (Interruptions)

SHRI B. R. NAHATA: Sir, unfortunately... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I thought you had completed your supplementary.

SHRI B. R. NAHATA: No. The hon. Minister has not answered my supplementaries at all. In the answer that has been given he stated that steps have been taken to reduce the transmission losses and he mentioned five steps. In view of these steps, I had asked him because he said that there were weak areas, which were the weak areas which had been identified and what concrete steps were taken in those areas. That has not been answered.

Another supplementary which I had put was, because he mentioned that they were having some planning for an improved system, in which area have they started the new system of distribution and what has been the effect, and what have been the losses in monetary terms? Not a single supplementary has been answered.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I have answered that this is a weak point in the areas where rural electrification was taken up. The tubewell is also our weak point. In all these areas we have been making efforts to strengthen the distribution system. Once the distribution system is strengthened, I think the transmission losses can be minimised, though they cannot be eliminated as in advanced countries, because there are vast areas and so this cannot be completely eliminated. I am afraid, I do not have the figures in terms of money.

प्र० अजीत कुमार मेहता : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, बिजली के बारे में पारेषण तथा

वितरण हानियों को कम करने के लिए केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण ने आवश्यक मार्गदर्शी सिद्धांत परिपत्रित किए हैं। उनमें से एक सिद्धांत यह है—

“ऊर्जा की चोरी के कारण होने वाली हानियों पर नियंत्रण रखने के लिए लगातार सतर्कता बरतना तथा कारगर प्रशासनिक उपाय करना।”

महाशय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इसके अन्तर्गत बड़े उपभोक्ताओं को छोड़ कर छोटे उपभोक्ताओं पर ही सतर्कता बरतती है? मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार रामेश्वर जूट मिल, मुक्तापुर, समस्तीपुर में लाखों रुपये की बिजली की चोरी पकड़ी गयी और उस पर मुकदमा भी चला। किन्तु अभी ऐसा पता चला है कि सरकार उस मुकदमे को वापस लेने जा रहा है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सतर्कता केवल छोटे उपभोक्ताओं पर ही लागू होगी या यह बिरला जैसे बड़े उपभोक्ताओं पर भी लागू होगा?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, we have advised the State Electricity Boards to appoint special squads to check this to have proper vigilance and this relates to all consumers, not only the small scale consumers of the peasants and all that. (Interruptions)

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: I have given a specific example. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has given a specific example.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: What is he going to do about that? (Interruptions)

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: We are aware of the pilferage of electricity. I have just said that a special squad is being appointed. (Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: It is indeed commendable and good that the Government is cautious and is seized of the matter of transmission and distribution losses because out of 28,000 Megawatt generation ten per cent of transmission and distribution losses would be about 2,800 Megawatt. This essentially is a matter for the State Electricity Boards. The Centre can only provide advisory service and can only give them advice. I think the method of calculation of these transmission and distribution losses is incorrect. How are these losses calculated? My opinion is that these losses are very much more and the State Electricity Boards inform the Government inaccurately and wrongly. Transmission and distribution losses should be calculated on the basis of the revenues earned by the electricity boards on the basis of billing, because what they have generated must necessarily also be sold. We must look at what power has been sold by the electricity boards and what is the total billing they have done. It is only that which will determine what is the total loss. There is now a lot of advanced technology available for controlling transmission and distribution losses. My specific question is, would the Government consider using the latest technology which is now available in the world for controlling the transmission and distribution losses.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: This is one of the recommendations of the Rajadhayaksha Committee and certainly we will consider it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is already under consideration?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Yes.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: May I know whether the transmission and distribution losses are more from one grid to another and therefore, the State Electricity Boards should use the types of new wires which prevent transmission losses rather than the old, hackneyed type of equipment which they are using? May I know whether the establishment of a national grid for transmission of energy will prevent transmission losses?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: As I said, the transmission losses are not so much in the 400 or 220 KV; it is only 5 per cent. But when it comes to 33 KV and other smaller units where rural electrification is there, then it jumps to 20 per cent. There also it includes pilferages, unmetered consumption of electricity etc. All that together comes to 20 per cent in our country. It has not gone more than 20 per cent for the last five years. It is more or less static.

Improvements Consequent upon increase in Postal/Telecommunications Tariff Rates

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*421. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI:**

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the specific areas of improvement commensurate with the recent increases in postal/telecommunication tariff rates which Government envisage to achieve; and

(b) the specific details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) and (b). The increase in postal/telecommunication rates with effect from 1st of March 1982 were made in order to prevent erosion of the Department's capabilities to finance its own development schemes for the 6th Plan, caused by increase in operational costs. In this indirect sense, the increase in revenue will contribute to the wide range of improvements resulting from the execution of 6th Plan programmes.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: At the outset, I would like to draw your attention to my question, namely:

"What are the specific areas of improvement commensurate with the recent increases in postal/telecommunication tariff rates".

They have only stated that in order to finance the sixth plan, they are going to increase the postal tariffs. In this context, may I know what are the specific im-