

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding privatization of electricity utility in Chandigarh.

**SHRI MANISH TEWARI (ANANDPUR SAHIB):** Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House towards the privatization of electricity utilities in Chandigarh. Chandigarh has the cheapest power in the country, but notwithstanding that, the Government is going ahead with privatizing the power utilities in the most arbitrary manner. This privatization can only be done under Section 63 of the Electricity Act after notifying the competitive biddings as per Government of India guidelines. Now, interestingly, on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 when the Standard Bid Document was published, there was a disclaimer which said and I quote, “The provisions contained in the SBD do not represent the views of the Ministry.”

Sir, my submission is that the privatization of electricity utilities in Chandigarh is being done in a completely illegal manner. This must be immediately stopped by the Power Ministry. I would like to request the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister who is sitting here to please convey our sentiments to the Power Ministry that what is being done is completely illegal.