

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:164
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2002
POWER THEFT
MANSUKHBHAID. VASAVA;PRABHA RAU

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has drawn the attention of the Government towards power theft in the country;
- (b) if so, the fact thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether much of the theft of power takes place only in the agriculture sector in our country;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) if not, the details of power theft, sector-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH P. PRABHU)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 164 TO BE ANSWERED IN TI LOK SABHA ON 14.03.2002 REGARDING POWER THEFT.

(a) to (e) : The World Bank among other multilateral agencies, has drawn attention of the Govt. towards losses caused by power theft in the country. Losses due to power theft take place in all categories of consumers including agricultural sector. The percentage transmission & distribution losses including losses due to thefts and unaccounted losses assessed by SEBs/Electricity Departments from the year 1992-93 to 1998-99 are at Annex-I.

Power distribution falls within the purview of the State Governments and the activities pertaining to prevention of theft of electricity and removal of illegal connections etc. have to be undertaken by the power utilities. Reduction of losses due to technical and commercial reasons has been given top priority by the Government of India. The Central Electricity Authority has issued guidelines for reduction of transmission & distribution losses and for conducting Energy Audits in power systems. These guidelines have been circulated to all the power utilities for taking suitable measures for reduction of transmission & distribution losses including power theft.

Some of the steps being taken by various utilities to prevent the theft of energy are as under:

- a. Mass checking drive is carried out periodically by vigilance squads as well as field staff. Inspections are being carried out by district units of engineers and prosecutions of erring consumers are launched by Police Officers manning the anti Power theft Squads.
- b. Installations are being made pilfer proof.
- c. A scheme for incentive to informants is in operation. A scheme to recognize the performance of individuals to curb theft of energy by providing incentive to deserving officers/ employees has also been introduced.
- d. Load inspection study for major load centers are being conducted.
- e. Penalty of imprisonment is also being imposed on those resorting to theft.
- f. With the help of computerization of billing process, abnormal consumption of consumers is being detected. If consumption is less than 15% of the average, cases are immediately inspected for detecting tampering of meter/theft of energy.

Funds are being provided to the power utilities under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) for renovation & modernization and uprating of existing old power plants and upgradation of sub Transmission & Distribution network including energy audit activities and metering in the distribution circles in a phased manner. An amount of Rs. 1000 crores has been sanctioned during the year 2000-2001. An outlay of Rs. 1500 crores (BE) is available in the year 2001-02 for these activities under APDP. In the first

phase 63 distribution circles have been identified for improvement and upgradation of sub transmission & distribution system and reduction of transmission & distribution losses and power theft.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STATEMENT DATED IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 164 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 14.03.2002 REGARDING POWER THEFT.

Percentage Transformation, Transmission & Distribution losses (including commercial losses such as pilferage etc.) in SEBs/EDs

REGION/SEB/ED 1992-93 1993-94 1994-95 1995-96 1996-97 1997-98 1998-99

Northern Region:

Haryana 26.78 25.00 30.80 32.39 32.77 34.04 35.33
Himachal Pradesh 19.51 18.31 18.21 16.09 18.02 20.13 26.11
Jammu & Kashmir 48.28 45.69 48.74 47.52 48.27 49.95 47.64
Punjab 19.24 19.37 16.70 18.49 19.10 18.94 18.11
Rajasthan 22.74 25.00 24.78 29.27 26.28 26.41 29.53
Uttar Pradesh 24.43 24.08 21.69 21.84 24.84 26.18 30.23
Chandigarh 26.21 27.27 28.44 33.72 21.88 22.38 22.48
DVB (Delhi) 23.56 31.79 34.56 48.57 49.08 47.91 43.71

Western Region:

Gujarat 22.03 20.34 20.02 20.08 17.14 21.57 20.83
Madhya Pradesh 21.35 20.26 19.61 17.84 19.24 19.58 19.87
Maharashtra 17.83 16.22 16.33 16.95 16.55 18.75 18.41
D&N Haveli 17.98 12.64 11.35 09.31 08.80 12.90 15.37
Goa 21.85 24.50 26.87 26.06 23.50 31.02 30.40
Daman & Diu 15.67 22.34 16.30 12.80 08.15 14.69 21.83

Southern Region:

Andhra Pradesh 19.88 19.91 17.95 19.34 33.19 32.14 34.09
Karnataka 19.55 19.55 19.41 19.06 18.73 19.31 30.45
Kerala 21.95 20.00 20.05 21.12 20.59 18.73 17.18
Tamil Nadu 17.50 17.18 17.11 16.19 17.65 17.29 17.22
Lakshadweep 18.72 16.99 17.84 17.23 15.11 15.70 12.78
Pondicherry 15.31 15.80 15.00 16.54 17.38 13.56 10.44

Eastern Region:

Bihar 22.00 20.35 19.76 15.91 25.31 16.26 24.80
Orissa (GRIDCO) 25.25 22.43 23.03 24.17 50.15 50.10 36.72
Sikkim 22.55 22.60 21.22 16.47 29.24 22.87 12.44
West Bengal 24.87 20.82 21.51 19.26 18.01 19.67 23.73
A&N Island 23.62 23.71 22.38 19.25 19.15 20.59 20.03

North Eastern Region:

Assam 21.41 22.44 24.18 26.91 25.97 27.32 38.72
Manipur 22.35 23.92 25.30 24.85 22.95 21.09 59.55
Meghalaya 11.79 18.03 18.47 12.55 19.75 12.28 19.66
Nagaland 27.26 33.45 36.12 35.17 26.81 29.79 26.52
Tripura 30.64 30.53 31.96 30.86 30.11 31.11 26.82
Arunachal Pradesh 32.32 42.04 45.30 37.12 32.62 34.10 30.60
Mizoram 29.04 31.89 29.76 25.18 34.35 46.84 44.79

All India (Utilities) 21.80 21.41 21.13 22.27 24.53 24.79 26.45