

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:688
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003
OUTSTANDING DUES OF TPS TO RAILWAYS
PRABHA RAU;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many thermal power stations owe large amount of money to the railways for the transportation of coal;
- (b) if so, the total outstanding dues to be paid to the railways by the thermal power stations; and
- (c) the reasons for delay in payment and the steps taken by the Government to clear all the outstanding dues?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) & (b) : Ministry of Railways have reported that dues from State Electricity Boards(SEBs)/Power Houses (PHs) at the end of March 2003 are Rs.1753.87 crores. The financial difficulties of the State Electricity Boards/Utilities are the primary reasons for the delay in payment.

(c) : The following steps have been taken by Ministry of Railways to realize the outstanding dues :-

(i) The scheme for prepayment of freight for carrying of coal to SEBs/PHs was introduced from 01.10.1996 for all power houses with the exception of Badarpur Thermal Power Station under the management of National Thermal Power Corporation, for which the scheme commenced on 01.01.1997. This was done to arrest fresh accrual of freight outstandings;

(ii) Pursuant to the Government's decision on 7.2.1997, that the outstanding dues from SEBs/PHs as on 31.12.1996 would be adjusted from the Central Plan Assistance of the State Governments subject to certain limits, Railways have received an amount of Rs.159.23 crore till date;

(iii) Close monitoring of recovery of outstanding dues from SEBs by holding meetings with the representative of SEBs/PHs;

(iv) Ministry of Railways has approached Secretaries of the concerned Ministries and Chief Secretaries of the States from time to time;

(v) Letters have been written by the Minister for Railways to the Chief Ministers of Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra and Delhi urging them for clearance of outstanding dues of their SEBs.

(vi) Adjustment of outstanding dues against traction bills in respect of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, West Bengal State Electricity Board, Gujarat State Electricity Board, Haryana State Electricity Board, Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board is also being carried out.