

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF POWER**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 03.08.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**POWER THEFT .**

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SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE POWER be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is aware that the theft of electricity is one of the major contributing factors, impacting the financial health of power utilities and growth of power sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether aggregate, technical and commercial (AT&C) losses in power sector have increased during the last few years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to reorganize the State regulatory bodies and to check AT&C losses?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

( SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI )

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. Theft of electricity is one of the major contributing factors impacting the financial health of power utilities and growth of power sector in the country. This also contributes to poor quality of power supply, frequent load shedding and unscheduled outages. The financial health of power utilities is also one of the criteria for assessing the viability of new investment. Theft of electricity is also an important reason for high AT&C losses in the country. All India AT&C losses stands at 33.07% during 2006-07 (as per the PFC).

(c) & (d) : No, Sir.

(e) : The State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, constitution and functioning are covered under the Electricity Act. However to check the AT&C losses following steps has been taken by the Government: Government had launched Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the year 2002-03 in order to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, improving quality of supply of power, increasing revenue collection and improving consumer satisfaction. APDRP has been re-structured for XI Plan as a Central Sector Scheme on 31.07.2008. The focus of the programme is on actual, demonstrable performance in terms of loss reduction. Projects under the scheme to be taken up in two parts. Part-A is the projects for establishment of baseline data and IT applications for energy accounting/auditing & IT based consumer service centers and Part-B is regular distribution strengthening projects. The objective of the scheme is to reduce the AT&C losses to 15% in the project areas at the end of the scheme. Initially funds will be provided as loan, which will be converted into grant on achieving the AT&C loss reduction targets. 1022 projects at the cost of Rs.3561.93 crore have been approved and Rs.584.31 crores have been released by Power Finance Corporation to fifteen states under Part-A of the scheme.