

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4157
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2018

24 HOURS POWER SUPPLY TO EVERY HOUSEHOLDS

†4157. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR:

Will the Minister of **POWER**
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is swiftly moving towards providing the 24/7 electricity to every household throughout the country but there is a lack of yet competition at distribution level is still lacking;
- (b) whether Government is taking any step to have competition at distribution level in each State;
- (c) whether any guidelines have been issued by Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER AND
NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) : Government has requested all States to ensure 24X7 power for all consumers from the year 2019. Government of India is also supporting the States in augmenting and strengthening of the intra state transmission and distribution network through various schemes including Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS). Government of India has also formulated the “SAUBHAGYA” scheme on 25th September 2017, which provides for electrification for all remaining un-electrified households in rural and urban areas across the country by 31st March 2019. These initiatives aim at ensuring supply of uninterrupted affordable quality power to consumers as also providing access to electricity to all unconnected households by 2019.

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As regards competition at Distribution level, it may be noted that Electricity is a regulated business in the country and distribution of the electricity is a licensed activity. Distribution licenses are issued by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

(b) to (d) : Introducing competition in electricity distribution sector was one of the key objectives of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014, which was introduced before the Lok Sabha on 19.12.2014. The Bill proposed the segregation of carriage & content in the distribution sector by introducing multiple supply licensees in the content (electricity supply business) continuing with the carriage (one distribution network) as regulated activity. The Bill was then referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy. The Committee, after detailed examination, has submitted its report on 07.05.2015. Based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee, further amendments to Electricity (Amendment) Bill are being finalized.

The concept of the segregation of carriage & content in the distribution sector, when introduced is expected to bring in further competition and efficiency in the distribution sector by giving choice to the consumers. Government of India has not issued any guidelines in this regard.
