

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2710
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2018**

DISCOM LOSSES

2710. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

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

- (a) whether there is any permissible limit for factoring in DISCOM losses in the tariff policy;**
- (b) if so, the detail thereof; and**
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to remove human interface in billing, metering and collections?**

A N S W E R

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

(SHRI R. K. SINGH)

(a) & (b) : Discom losses are the Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses which consist of the transmission and distribution losses (T&D losses) and billing & collection efficiency of Distribution Companies. As per Para 8.2.1 of the Tariff Policy 2016, need for reduction in AT&C losses has been emphasized. The draft amendments to tariff policy, circulated for stakeholders comments on 30.5.2018, stipulates that the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and Joint Electricity Regulatory Commissions shall not consider AT&C losses exceeding 15% for determination of tariff after 31.03.2019.

(c) : The Central Government has taken various steps to reduce the human interface in billing, metering and collections in respect of supply of electricity. Under Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) support has been provided to Discoms for development or strengthening of IT systems which enable Discoms to generate automated bills by the use of billing software. Under IPDS, projects of smart meters with an outlay of Rs 834.41 Crore have been sanctioned to 12 states. Discoms are also offering various options to the consumer for payment of their dues by means of online payment, use of e-payment wallets, use of payment Applications etc. Further, states have been requested to draw up a road map for shifting over to smart/prepaid meters within next three years. Smart meter would help eliminate the human interference in billing and metering. The use of smart meters in the pre-paid mode will do away with all the problems associated with meter reading, billing, collection and disconnection in case of non-payment.
