

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2720
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2018**

BENEFITS OF SAUBHAGYA SCHEME

2720. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:

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

- (a) the manner in which Saubhagya scheme proposes to ensure smooth transfer of electricity bill payment system from postpaid to prepaid and the extent to which the prepaid bills are likely to benefit consumers;**
- (b) whether this scheme tackles the problem of load shedding and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) whether the financial losses incurred by power distribution companies affect the implementation of this scheme and 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) to (c) : Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - Saubhagya aims to electrify all un-electrified households in the country by March, 2019. There have been complaints of infrequent meter reading, bills not being served on time, or being served for two to three months at a time specially in the rural areas, inaccurate billing, etc. As the number of consumers increase with Saubhagya, these problems are likely to grow. Therefore, the States have been advised to take the help of technology, and shift to the prepaid system over the next three years. This will do away with the problems of meter reading and service of bills and in collection. This will also be pro poor, because the consumers will be able to recharge according to the funds available to them. This will also help the DISCOMs, as their collections will increase, and losses will come down. With more resources the DISCOMS will be in a better position to resume continuous and stable supply of electricity.
