

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2213
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.07.2019**

INCIDENTS OF POWER THEFT

†2213. SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:

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

- (a) whether the development of power sector is adversely affected due to incidents of power theft;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any plan in consultation with the States to prevent incidents of power theft in the country; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the punitive provisions proposed against guilty persons?**

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b): Power theft affects the financial positions of Power Distribution Utilities as they increase in the Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses.

The responsibility of reduction of AT&C losses in the Distribution network rests with the State Power Departments/Utilities. Government of India have launched various schemes such as Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) to enable States to improve their Distribution infrastructure systems and management of Discoms so that energy losses including those due to theft are reduced. Under IPDS/DDUGJY schemes, projects envisages metering of distribution transformers/feeders/ consumers, underground (UG) and aerial bunched (AB) cables including IT enablement of distribution infrastructures for reduction of AT&C losses.

(c) : Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed under Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) with State Governments/UTs, Power Distribution companies (DISCOMs) and the Ministry of Power, which inter-alia envisage Power Distribution companies (DISCOMs) to undertake various steps to reduce Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses including those due to electricity theft to 15%.

(d) : The Electricity Act, 2003 provides for detection of theft, speedy trial of theft related offences and also for recovery of the charges of electricity stolen. Section 135 and Section 151 of the Electricity Act, 2003 were amended through the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007 making the offences punishable under Section 135-140 and Section 150 as cognizable and non-bailable. The definition of theft has been expanded under Section 135 to cover use of tampered meters and use of electricity for unauthorized purpose by insertion of provisions (d) and (e) under Section 135(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003. The Electricity Act also provides for setting up Special Courts by State Governments under Section 153 for speedy trial of offences of theft of electricity.
