

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.113
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023**

IMPROVEMENT IN GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF POWER

†113. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any special initiative to bring reasonable improvement in generation and distribution of power;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has also made any joint efforts to settle the bill payments of the State Governments; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) to (b) : Yes, Sir. The following steps have been taken by the Government to bring improvement in generation and distribution of power:

- (i) From 2014 till 31.12.2022, 175 GW of power generation capacity has been added.**
- (ii) 173459 ckt kms of transmission lines has been added to our grid, connecting the whole country into on grid capacity of transferring 112 GW power from one corner of country to another.**
- (iii) Under DDUGJY/Saubhagya/IPDS the Distribution system has been strengthened at a cost of Rs. 2.02 Lakh Crore-adding 2927 new substations, upgrading 3964 substations and adding 8.48 lakh ckt km of HT/LT lines etc.**
- (iv) 100% FDI through automatic route is allowed for projects of power generation (except atomic energy), transmission, distribution and trading.**
- (v) Notification of Revised Tariff Policy on 28.01.2016 with various provisions to encourage private sector participation in generation as well as in transmission.**
- (vi) Notification of Late Payment Surcharge Rules to bring back financial viability of the power sector in the country and thereby attract investments. The Rules have not only ensured that the outstanding dues are liquidated but have also ensured that the current dues are paid in time.**

(vii) In order to promote generation from renewable sources of energy and attract investments in this sector, Inter State Transmission System (ISTS) charges for transmission of the electricity generated from solar and wind sources have been waived for projects to be commissioned by 30.06.2025. Further, ISTS charges on transmission of electricity generated from new hydro projects waived for 18 years from the date of commissioning.

(viii) Green Open Access Rules, 2022 have been notified on 06.06.22 for promoting generation, purchase and consumption of green energy.

(ix) Setting up of Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Parks to provide land and transmission to Renewable Energy (RE) developers for installation of RE projects at large scale.

(x) With the objective of improving the quality and reliability of power supply to consumers through a financially sustainable and operationally efficient Distribution Sector in the country Government of India has launched Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in July 2021. The scheme aims to reduce the Aggregate Technical & Commercial losses (AT&C) to pan-India levels of 12-15% and Average Cost of Supply-Average Realizable Revenue (ACS-ARR) gap to zero by 2024-25. The scheme has an outlay of Rs.3,03,758 crore and an estimated Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs.97,631 crore from the Central Government.

(xi) These measures have contributed to the present status wherein power availability has gone upto 22½ hrs on average in rural areas and 23½ hrs in urban areas.

(c) to (d) : Government of India promulgated Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022 in order to ensure discipline in the power sector value chain. These rules entail obligations upon the DISOCMs to clear their legacy dues as existing on 03.06.2022 in a time bound phased manner in equated monthly installments with benefits of non applicability of late payment surcharge after 03.06.2022. However, failure to repay the instalment of legacy dues in accordance with the Rules would invite Late Payment Surcharge (LPS) on the entire outstanding amount. These rules also provide penal framework to ensure time bound clearance of current dues through establishment of a Payment Security Mechanism as provided in PPA through disincentives of progressive withdrawal of open access as well as power regulations if the provisions of the Rules are not followed.

RDSS also aims at implementation of prepaid smart metering for all Government offices. It is expected that this will ensure timely payment of all Government Departments electricity dues including dues from Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/ Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) to the DISCOMs.
