

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1933
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025**

MODERNIZATION OF ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION

1933. SHRI SHASHANK MANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has set a target of installing 250 million smart meters across the country by 2025–26 to modernize electricity distribution, improve billing efficiency and reduce aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses;**
- (b) if so, the details of progress achieved so far under this initiative including the number of smart meters sanctioned, installed and made operational;**
- (c) whether around 222 million smart meters have been sanctioned and approximately 22 million installed till date and if so, the reasons for the gap between sanctioning and installation of smart meters; and**
- (d) the major factors affecting the pace of implementation such as financial, technical, logistical or administrative challenges?**

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) to (d) : Government of India launched the scheme of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in July 2021 to support the States/ UTs to improve the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of distribution utilities so as to provide quality and reliable supply of power. One of the key initiatives under the scheme is smart metering of consumers, distribution transformers and feeders. Under the scheme, 20.33 crore smart meters have been sanctioned based on the project proposals submitted by the States. In addition, many States have installed smart meters under their State plan. Till date 4.93 crore smart meters have been installed in the country under various schemes. Sanctioned works are expected to be completed by the scheme sunset date i.e. 31.03.2028.

Smart metering helps improve the billing and collection efficiency of the DISCOMs and thus would help in reducing losses.

Initially, there were some challenges in the implementation of smart metering works due to the following reasons:

- 1) Inadequate consumer awareness regarding the benefits of smart meters.**
- 2) Delay in tendering and awarding of works. Few utilities required longer time period for obtaining board approval issuance of tender documents etc.**
- 3) Delay in signing of Contract agreement and Direct Debit Facility (DDF) agreement by utilities.**
- 4) Initial delays in issuing Request for Proposal (RFP) as Smart Metering being new technological initiative.**
- 5) Challenges in implementation in Total Expenditure (TOTEX) mode as per the scheme guidelines in some utilities.**

To improve pace of installation, the Ministry has taken various steps including regular follow up with States to enhance the consumer confidence and awareness. Various advisories and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) have been issued which include:

- Prioritisation of installation of prepaid smart meters for Government establishments, commercial, industrial and high-load consumers;**
- Incentivising consumers for prepaid meter installation through rebates in bill;**
- No penalty on consumer based on maximum demand recorded by smart meter;**
- Mechanism for recovery of past arrears in easy instalments;**
- Installation of check meters for enhancing confidence in accuracy of smart meters;**
- Smart meter mobile apps are being made available to allow for regular tracking of consumption of electricity and for easy recharge;**
- Advance alerts for balance and emergency credit to consumers before disconnection.**

Consequently, the works have picked up pace.
