

promotion to non-conventional sources of energy, protection of consumers' interests etc.

Constitution of Tribunal for Settlement of Inter-state disputes for sharing Hydro-Electric Power

39. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposal for the constitution of Tribunal for settlement of Inter-State disputes for sharing hydro-electric power;

(b) if so, whether Government has plan to form such a Tribunal for speedy settlement of inter-State disputes;

(c) if so, by when the Tribunal would be constituted; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) There is no proposal under consideration to constitute a Tribunal for the settlement of Inter-State disputes for sharing of Hydro Electric Power amongst states.

Transmission Losses

40. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present the incidence of transmission losses is 15 per cent and theft of power is around 35 per cent;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to bring down the transmission losses to international standard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that theft of power supply is eliminated so that this national wastage no longer happens?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) As per the information furnished by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) the average transmission and distribution losses in the country for the year 2002-03 are 32.54% which includes theft of power also.

(b) The measures taken to curtail losses during transmission, and distribution in order to make the State Electricity Boards commercially viable are:

- (i) Metering of 11 kV feeders and consumer metering; (ii) Energy accounting and auditing;
- (iii) Strengthening the provisions, relating to theft of power in Electricity Act, 2003;
- (iv) Implementation of the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for upgradation and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system and providing incentive for reducing cash losses by SEBs/Utilities;
- (v) Establishment of regulatory mechanism at central as well as state level;
- (vi) Loan assistance by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC);
- (vii) IT initiatives like consumer billing and customer care; and
- (viii) Introduction of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS).

(c) The Electricity Act, 2003 provides a legal framework for making theft of electricity a cognizable offence. Under Section 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003, whoever dishonestly taps lines or cables or service wires, tampers, damages or destroys meters etc., shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to three years or with fine or with both. Under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) incentive is being provided to State Governments/Power Utilities for reducing cash losses, a significant portion of which on account of theft of power.

T & D Losses

†41. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have earmarked an amount of Rs. 1400 crores for tackling losses during distribution and transmission of power in various States of the country;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.