

Power Theft

430. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimate of power theft as against genuine transmission and distribution losses in each State;

(b) whether it is a fact that a survey made by the World Bank has indicated that the power sold to agriculture is much less than claimed by the States;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to minimize power theft; and

(d) whether Government have considered installation of additional meters on power lines to reduce power theft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The losses being incurred by various State Governments on account of power theft are not being separately assessed. However, the experience of States undergoing reforms indicate that the losses on account of T & D, theft and pilferage are to the extent of 45% of the power generated. A rough estimate indicate that out of the total energy generated only 55% is billed (Rs. 62,000 crores). Of the amount not billed 20% loss is sustained due to theft and pilferage (Rs. 22,500 crores).

A statement showing the percentage T & D losses including both the technical and commercial losses as assessed by the concerned State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments for the Year 1997-98 is annexed (See below)

Quantum jump in the T & D losses reported by the reforming states is apparently on the account of the ability of the vertically integrated SEBs to misclassify losses. This would not be possible in restructured generation, transmission and distribution utilities. Restructured distribution entities would be under compulsion to assess the losses nearer to actuals.

(c) and (d) Though the power distribution falls within the purview of the State Governments and the activities pertaining to prevention of theft of electricity and removing illegal connection have to be taken care of by the power utilities operating under their jurisdiction. Theft of electricity has been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, and the utilities have to effectively implement the provisions of the law to curb the theft of electricity.

In the Common Minimum National Action Plan for power announced in