

Vitalizing loss making discoms and power utilities

65. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has given its report on the loss-making power companies and discoms in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of measures proposed by the World Bank to vitalize discoms and power companies to make profits and the action plan being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) The World Bank has submitted a report entitled, "More Power to India: The Challenge of Distribution" to the Government of India. The report highlights the evolution of the Indian Power Sector since the enactment of Electricity Act 2003, focusing on access and affordability of power; financial and operational performance and governance of utilities; experience with private participation; implementation of reforms across states; and improvement in distribution performance.

The report has brought out the following issues:

- Implement fully the key EA mandates, especially those on competition and distribution (tariffs, open access, and standards of performance).
- Ensure regulatory autonomy, effectiveness and accountability.
- Insulate utilities from State Government to prevent interference with internal operations.
- Use central programs and other support to incentivize operational and financial efficiency.
- Make better use of India's size and diversity to experiment with and learn from different models of service provision.
- Promote electrification in a financially responsible manner and support diverse delivery models.
- Rationalize domestic tariff structures to improve targeting and reduce the fiscal burden.

Cheap coal to power plants in Bihar

†66. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has chalked out any plan for providing coal to the power plants of Bihar at cheap rate;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.