

- (iii) Agitation by local organisations; and
- (iv) Cash crunch of the civil contractor (HCC)

Prime Minister's meeting with DISCOM officials

2500. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister has recently held a meeting with the officials of power distribution companies to ascertain the status of debts of power utilities and their performance and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of measures being taken by Government to minimise the combined debts of power distribution companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government has launched the Scheme UDAY (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) on 20th November, 2015 to improve financial and operational efficiencies of Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs). The Scheme envisages that the States shall take over 75% of DISCOM debt as on 30th September, 2015 over two years – 50% of DISCOM debt shall be taken over in FY 2015-16 and the remaining 25% in FY 2016-17. UDAY would help the participating States to reduce the burden of interest, cost of power and AT&C losses.

Electrification in North-Eastern Region

†2501. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many villages are still deprived of electrification in North-Eastern Region including Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise;
- (c) Government's plan for electrification of these villages and the time-frame fixed for it; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to supply power to Gram Sabhas deprived of electrification through solar energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) As on 10.12.2015, 5565 number of villages are yet to be electrified in North Eastern Region (NER) including Assam. The State-wise and District-wise details is given in the Statement (*See below*).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.