

**24 hours power supply to every household**

†4157. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is swiftly moving towards providing the 24/7 electricity to every household throughout the country but there is a lack of yet competition at distribution level is still lacking;

(b) whether Government is taking any step to have competition at distribution level in each State;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) Government has requested all States to ensure 24X7 power for all consumers from the year 2019. Government of India is also supporting the States in augmenting and strengthening of the intra state transmission and distribution network through various schemes including Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS). Government of India has also formulated the "SAUBHAGYA" scheme on 25th September 2017, which provides for electrification for all remaining un-electrified households in rural and urban areas across the country by 31st March 2019. These initiatives aim at ensuring supply of uninterrupted affordable quality power to consumers as also providing access to electricity to all unconnected households by 2019.

As regards competition at Distribution level, it may be noted that Electricity is a regulated business in the country and distribution of the electricity is a licensed activity. Distribution licenses are issued by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

(b) to (d) Introducing competition in electricity distribution sector was one of the key objectives of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014, which was introduced before the Lok Sabha on 19.12.2014. The Bill proposed the segregation of carriage and content in the distribution sector by introducing multiple supply licensees in the content (electricity supply business) continuing with the carriage (one distribution network) as regulated activity. The Bill was then referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy. The Committee, after detailed examination, has submitted its report on 07.05.2015. Based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee, further amendments to Electricity (Amendment) Bill are being finalized.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The concept of the segregation of carriage and content in the distribution sector, when introduced is expected to bring in further competition and efficiency in the distribution sector by giving choice to the consumers. Government of India has not issued any guidelines in this regard.

#### **24 hour electricity to Himachal Pradesh**

4158. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint initiative of the Central Government and Government of Himachal Pradesh aiming to provide electricity to each household, industrial and agricultural consumer round the clock has been introduced in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the current status of the programme;

(c) the financial assistance and other support Government has extended/proposes to extend to the Government of Himachal Pradesh under the programme;

(d) whether Government has prescribed any time limit by which each and every household, industrial and agricultural consumer will be provided electricity round the clock; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) to (e) Electricity is a concurrent subject and distribution of electricity and management of associated functions is carried out by concerned State Government/Distribution utility. Government of India has taken a joint initiative with all the States/UTs for preparation of State specific documents for providing 24x7 power supply to all households, industrial and commercial consumers and adequate supply of power to agricultural consumers as per State policy. All the State Governments including Government of Himachal Pradesh and Union Territories have signed the "24X7 Power For All" document to provide electricity to all from 1st April 2019. Government of India supplements the efforts of States through its various schemes including Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) etc.

Further Government of India has launched Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana-Saubhagya in September, 2017 with an outlay of ₹ 16,320 crore including a Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of ₹ 12,320.00 crore . Under the scheme, remaining un-electrified households are targeted to be electrified by 31st March, 2019.