

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.948
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2021

REFORMS IN POWER SECTOR

948. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

Will the Minister of **POWER**
be pleased to state:

- (a) the reforms that Government proposes to bring in the power sector;
- (b) whether it is a fact that recently Government has released a draft Electricity Bill to reform DISCOMS, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether there is any proposal to privatize DISCOMS in the country, if so, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) to (c) : A reforms-based result-linked power distribution sector scheme is proposed with an outlay of Rs.3,05,984 crore over 5 years. The scheme will provide assistance to DISCOMs for infrastructure creation and upgradation, prepaid smart metering, feeder separation, up-gradation of systems, etc. The release of funds will be tied to improvement in performance. A Hydrogen Energy Mission in 2021-22 for generating hydrogen from green power sources is also proposed.

A proposed draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was circulated for comments of stakeholders and comments have been received thereon.

As announced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in her Budget Speech, the distribution companies across the country are monopolies either, government or private. There is a need to provide choice to the consumers by promoting competition. A framework will be put in place to give consumers alternatives to choose from among more than one distribution company.
