

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1907
ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

POWER TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION BOTTLENECKS

1907 SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

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

- (a) the details of the planned expansion of transmission lines and transformation capacity by 2031-32;
- (b) the progress made under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses;
- (c) whether political interference and financial distress of DISCOMs are hindering reforms, if so, the steps being taken to address these issues; and
- (d) the status of smart metering implementation and its impact on curbing inefficiencies in the power sector?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) : As per the National Electricity Plan (Transmission), transmission network (220 kV and above voltage level) in the country is planned to be expanded from 4.92 lakh circuit kilometers (ckm) in February 2025 to 6.48 lakh ckm in 2032. During the same period the transformation capacity (220 kV and above voltage level) is planned to increase from 1,275 Giga Volt Ampere (GVA) to 2,345 GVA. High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) lines of 33.25 GW capacity are planned to be added, in addition to 33.5 GW presently operating.

(b) : Government of India launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in July, 2021 with the objective of improving the quality and reliability of power supply to consumers through a financially sustainable and operationally efficient Distribution Sector. Under the scheme, projects worth Rs. 2.78 lakh Cr. have been sanctioned for loss reduction infrastructure and smart metering works. The release of funds under the scheme is contingent upon performance of States/ UTs on various parameters including Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses. In order to reduce the technical losses as per the action plan of the States/ UTs, network strengthening and augmentation works have been sanctioned. These include upgradation/ augmentation of sub-stations and distribution transformers, upgrading of conductors and segregation of mixed-load feeders.

The progress of distribution infrastructure and smart meter works sanctioned under RDSS is given at **Annexure-I and II**, respectively.

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Through collective efforts of Centre and States/ UTs the AT&C loss of distribution utilities has reduced from 21.91% in FY2021 to 16.28% in FY2024. Further, the gap between Average Cost of Supply and the Average Revenue Realized during this period has reduced from 71 paise/kWh to 19 paise/kWh.

(c) : The major reasons for the increasing financial losses of power distribution utilities are delayed or non-payment of State Government subsidies, outstanding electricity dues from State Government departments, poor billing and collection efficiency and delay in issue of tariff and true-up orders before the commencement of financial year and setting of non-cost-reflective tariffs by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

Government of India has taken the following measures, in addition to RDSS, to improve the financial viability of distribution utilities.

- (1) Implementation of Late Payment Surcharge (LPS) Rules has ensured that distribution companies pay their dues to generating companies on time.
- (2) Rules have been introduced to ensure cost-reflective tariffs and the automatic pass-through of variations in power purchase and fuel costs on a monthly basis.
- (3) Ensuring that tariff and true-up orders are issued on time has helped in reducing revenue gaps.
- (4) Rules have been framed for timely payment of the subsidies promised by the State Governments.
- (5) Rules and operating procedures for energy accounting have improved transparency, and billing and collection efficiency.
- (6) Loans to state owned Power Utilities have been linked to the performance of Distribution Utilities.
- (7) Additional Borrowing space of 0.5% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has been allowed to State Governments conditional upon key power sector reforms.

(d) : Under RDSS, Smart metering works covering 19.79 Cr. consumer meters, 52.52 lakh Distribution Transformer (DT) meters and 2.1 lakh Feeder meters have been sanctioned and installation is in progress. Till date, 1.21 Cr. consumer meters, 4.24 lakh Distribution Transformer (DT) meters and 0.94 lakh Feeder meters have been installed under the scheme.

Smart Metering allows for automatic and accurate tracking of consumption which would help in improving billing and collection efficiency. It would also help in improved energy accounting & auditing, load forecasting, optimized power purchase costs and renewable energy integration.

The reduction in losses and improved power purchase optimization would help in reducing the cost of power.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1907 ANSWERED IN THE RAJYA SABHA ON 17.03.2025

Status of Distribution Infrastructure Works sanctioned under RDSS				
State	Sanctioned Cost (Excl. PMA)	Award Status		Physical Progress till 06.03.2025
		Sanctioned Cost of Awarded works	(%)	
Andaman and Nicobar	455	0	0%	0%
Andhra Pradesh	10,552	8,955	85%	14.10%
Arunachal Pradesh	1,027	652	63%	4.79%
Assam	3,344	2,571	77%	41.41%
Bihar	8,282	6,993	84%	53.57%
Chhattisgarh	3,906	3,460	89%	34.84%
Delhi	319	0	0%	0%
Goa	243	205	84%	71.06%
Gujarat	5,999	5,006	83%	32.57%
Haryana	6,696	1,537	23%	5.05%
Himachal Pradesh	2,293	1,162	51%	0.19%
Jammu and Kashmir	4,700	3,956	84%	18.44%
Jharkhand	3,294	3,289	100%	9.60%
Karnataka	35	4	10%	89.09%
Kerala	2,973	2,493	84%	7.40%
Ladakh	863	778	90%	0%
Madhya Pradesh	9,286	8,452	91%	12%
Maharashtra	17,128	16,423	96%	18.43%
Manipur	606	366	60%	3.53%
Meghalaya	1,214	785	65%	10.79%
Mizoram	314	219	70%	34.21%
Nagaland	454	447	98%	0%
Puducherry	83	83	100%	0%
Punjab	3,816	865	23%	14.85%
Rajasthan	17,176	8,920	52%	10.33%
Sikkim	410	347	85%	2.55%
Tamil Nadu	9,426	8,641	92%	3%
Telangana	119	7	6%	0%
Tripura	589	439	74%	42.17%
Uttar Pradesh	21,341	17,102	80%	37.66%
Uttarakhand	1,692	1,310	77%	2.43%
West Bengal	7116	6924	97%	39.09%
Total	1,45,754	1,12,390	77%	23.18%

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1907 ANSWERED IN THE RAJYA SABHA ON 17.03.2025

Status of Smart Metering Works sanctioned under RDSS as on 04.03.2025

State/UTs	Consumer Meters (Nos.)		DT Meters (Nos.)		Feeder Meters (Nos.)	
	Sanctioned	Installed	Sanctioned	Installed	Sanctioned	Installed
Andaman and Nicobar	83,573	0	1,148	0	114	0
Andhra Pradesh	56,08,846	11,39,191	2,93,140	1,346	17,358	2,160
Arunachal Pradesh	2,87,446	136	10,116	45	688	227
Assam	63,64,798	27,16,915	77,547	51,250	2,782	2,857
Bihar	23,50,000	18,17,298	2,50,726	88,671	6,427	5,769
Chhattisgarh	59,62,115	13,12,056	2,10,644	32,980	6,720	5,445
Delhi	0	0	766	0	2,755	0
Goa	7,41,160	0	8,369	0	827	0
Gujarat	1,64,81,871	7,26,092	3,00,487	63,555	5,229	0
Himachal Pradesh	28,00,945	1,74,360	39,012	5,052	1,951	492
Jammu and Kashmir	14,07,045	52,537	88,037	30	2,608	1,401
Jharkhand	13,41,306	64,901	19,512	0	1,226	408
Kerala	1,32,89,361	0	87,615	0	6,025	0
Madhya Pradesh	1,29,80,102	15,92,154	4,19,396	20,307	29,708	9,489
Maharashtra	2,35,64,747	10,35,792	4,10,905	1,09,685	29,214	28,402
Manipur	1,54,400	4,902	11,451	0	357	84
Meghalaya	4,60,000	0	11,419	0	1,324	0
Mizoram	2,89,383	0	2,300	0	398	0
Nagaland	3,17,210	0	6,276	0	392	0
Puducherry	4,03,767	0	3,105	0	180	0
Punjab	87,84,807	0	1,84,044	0	12,563	0
Rajasthan	1,42,74,956	0	4,34,608	0	27,128	11,416
Sikkim	1,44,680	15,557	3,229	188	633	432
Tamil Nadu	3,00,00,000	0	4,72,500	0	18,274	0
Tripura	5,47,489	17,588	14,908	0	473	411
Uttar Pradesh	2,69,79,056	11,93,820	15,26,801	47,812	20,874	21,840
Uttarakhand	15,87,870	37,660	59,212	3,399	2,602	2,380
West Bengal	2,07,17,969	2,95,909	3,05,419	0	11,874	1,062
All India Total	19,79,24,902	1,21,96,868	52,52,692	4,24,320	2,10,704	94,275
