

**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1276 ANSWERED IN THE RAJYA SABHA ON 10.03.2025**

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**A. Steps taken by State of Maharashtra**

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. (MSEDCL) actively monitors and reports incidents through its field offices and undertakes necessary remedial measures to ensure the stability and reliability of power infrastructure. Regular reviews are conducted, and corrective actions are taken to minimize disruptions and risks. The State Government through MSEDCL has implemented multiple measures to regularly assess the integrity of high-tension electric Power infrastructure. The following steps have been taken in Maharashtra:

- i. **Periodic Inspections:** MSEDCL conducts routine inspections and maintenance of power poles and distribution lines to identify and rectify potential weaknesses.
- ii. **Structural Strengthening:** Replacement of aging and weak poles with stronger, corrosion-resistant alternatives to enhance durability and stability.
- iii. **Preventive Maintenance:** Regular maintenance activities, including tightening of sagging wires, tree trimming to prevent contact, and proactive reinforcement of poles in vulnerable areas.
- iv. **Disaster Preparedness:** Implementation of safety protocols and rapid response mechanisms to minimize the impact of extreme weather events on power infrastructure.
- v. **Collaboration with Regulatory Bodies:** MSEDCL works closely with the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) and the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to ensure adherence to best practices in safety and infrastructure maintenance. MSEDCL follows stringent internal protocols for infrastructure assessment and safety. Additionally, compliance with standards set by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and adherence to safety guidelines ensure that the power distribution network is regularly evaluated and maintained. MSEDCL submits periodic reports to MERC as part of its operational compliance and continues to implement best practices for infrastructure resilience.

**B. Steps taken by State of Gujarat**

As informed by Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL), proactive measures are taken in the State of Gujarat, such as transporting poles and wires to potential disaster sites in advance. Additionally, sufficient manpower from pole and wire erection contractors is kept ready at vulnerable locations. In the event of collapse of a high-tension electric power pole or wire, rectification measures are implemented immediately as soon as the cyclone subsides, ensuring that power supply is restored in affected areas at the earliest possible time.

Further, High Tension and Extra High-Tension lines and conductors are checked during routine patrolling, fault tripping and breakdown by utility staff, wherein, the parts of towers/ poles like cross arms, insulators, hard-wares & conductors, jumpers are checked at regular interval for its healthiness. Also, foundations, stub, members of towers/ H-frame structures are assessed and rectification is done under normal course, while stub strengthening, replacement of deteriorated structures is carried under Repair and Maintenance (R&M) plan on a yearly basis.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1277  
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

**PENALTY ON POWER PLANTS FOR NOT IMPORTING COAL**

**1277 SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to penalise power plants for not importing coal;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government resolved to end coal imports in the Financial Year 2023-24 (April-March);
- (d) if so, the reasons for the change in resolve; and
- (e) the details regarding the impact of the imports on the country's forex reserves?

**A N S W E R**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

**(a) to (e):** As per current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal as per their preference and source based on their commercial prudence. Every GENCO-Central/State/IPP procures coal themselves, as per their requirements through a transparent competitive bidding process.

Domestic Coal Based (DCB) plants import coal for blending with domestic coal in order to meet requirement of the quantity/quality, whereas Imported Coal Based (ICB) plants import coal for their fuel requirement.

Keeping in view the coal stock available, requirement and anticipated availability of domestic coal, Ministry of Power from time-to-time issues advisory to DCB plants for import of coal so that these plants would generate maximum electricity to meet the requirement of power.

In the light of continuous high gap in receipt of domestic coal and also taking into account reduced Hydro generation on account of variable monsoon rainfall, GENCOs were advised to blend imported coal @6% (weight) till 31.03.2024. Thereafter, keeping in view the power demand during the summer months and to ensure uninterrupted power supply across the country, Ministry of Power on 04.03.2024 further extended the advisory till June 2024.

The Ministry of Power reviewed the coal supply position to GENCOs and extended the advisory on 27.06.2024 with a reduced blending @ 4% till October 15, 2024. Finally, due to improvement in coal stocks and sustained supplies of domestic coal, advisory to GENCOs for import of coal for blending purpose was not extended beyond October 15, 2024

There was reduction in import of non-coking coal during 2023-24 resulting in Forex saving of US\$ 7.34 billion as compared to corresponding period of previous financial year. Similarly, Forex saving of US\$ 2.45 billion has been reported from April to November, 2024 as compared to corresponding period 2023-24.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1278**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE SURVEY 2023-24

1278. SHRI MADAN RATHORE:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures that have been taken to ensure data accuracy and to minimize discrepancies in self-reported expenditures;
- (b) the categories of goods and services that are covered in the survey, and whether there are any new additions compared to the previous survey; and
- (c) the manner in which the survey ensures the representation of rural and urban households across different States and income groups?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE [RAO INDERJIT SINGH]

(a): National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) conducts survey on Household Consumption Expenditure at regular intervals wherein information on consumption of food and non-food items by the household are collected. The latest survey on Household Consumption Expenditure (HCES: 2023-24) was conducted during August, 2023 – July, 2024 and the findings of the same was published in the month of January, 2025. NSO is committed to ensuring accurate and reliable data from the target population while minimizing non-sampling errors. The primary data collection is being done in digital platform using Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) or web-based application with in-built validation mechanism to ensure consistency at the stage of data collection. The accuracy of the data is ensured by multi-level data scrutiny and validation checks. It enhances the efficiency of data collection by enabling real-time data entry and validation significantly reducing manual errors. Implementation of built-in data validation checks helps to flag implausible or inconsistent responses, such as extreme values or patterns that don't match typical spending behaviors.

(b): In the surveys of Household Consumption Expenditure conducted during 2022-23 & 2023-24, the information on around 405 items of food and non-food consumed by the household are collected. The following are the broad categories in which information was collected:

1. Cereals and cereal substitutes
2. Pulses and its products
3. Salt & sugar
4. Milk and its products