

Large scale power cuts in U.P.

†3286. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale power cuts are resorted to in Uttar Pradesh and it is being provided to the farmers only for 4 to 6 hours;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the power cuts are resorted to without intimating the people;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) the measures being taken by Government to streamline the power transmission in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Supply and distribution of electricity within the State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. Power supply to various categories of consumers including agriculture sector is decided by the State Government depending upon the overall availability of power in the State. According to Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL), U.P. has been restricting its drawal from the Central sector generating stations to the extent of its paying capability. During April, 2002 (upto 19th), the average availability of power to the rural areas was about 8 hours per day. Uttar Pradesh suffered energy shortage of around 19 per cent during the 1st fortnight of April, 2002.

(c) and (d) According to UPPCL, the load shedding schedule has been given wide circulation through District Officers and their Divisional Officers.

(e) If the paying capability of Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. is improved, U.P. will be able to draw additional power from Central sector generating stations as per their entitlement which would improve the overall power supply position in the State.

150 MW plant of NTPC/ONGC in West Bengal

3287. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC and ONGC propose to install a 150 MW plant in West Bengal;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the expected cost of the plant; and
- (d) by when the plant would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) to (d) In view of the above, do not arise.

Power theft

†3288. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that theft of power is still taking place in Delhi and the entire country despite change in meter policy;

- (b) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to check this; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. Theft of power takes place in varying magnitude in the country. Power distribution falls under the jurisdiction of State Governments and the activities to contain theft of power have to be undertaken by the power utilities.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has given priority to reduction of transmission and distribution losses including power theft. The Central Electricity Authority has issued guidelines for reduction of transmission and distribution losses including power theft and for conducting Energy Audits in power systems. These guidelines have been circulated to all the power utilities, which are taking the following steps to prevent the theft of energy—

- a. Mass checking drive is carried out periodically by vigilance squads as well as field staff. Inspections are being carried out by district units of engineers and prosecutions of erring consumers are launched by Police Officers manning the anti Power theft Squads.
- b. Installations are being made pilfer proof.
- c. A scheme for incentive to informants is in operation. A scheme to recognize the performance of individuals to curb theft of energy by providing incentive to deserving officers/employees has also been introduced.

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