

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1419
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.03.2020

EXTERNAL DEBTS OF STATE OWNED DISCOMS

1419. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the external debt of State owned electricity distribution companies is set to increase pre Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana levels of ₹ 2.6 lakh crore by the end of this fiscal;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the DISCOMs have to become commercially viable as the continued financial support to them may be difficult;
- (c) whether the tariff hikes and a reduction in AT&C losses is the way forward for States DISCOMs; and
- (d) if so, the suggestions made to States DISCOMs in this regard?

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) : The pre-UDAY debt levels of 16 Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) States which signed the comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with Govt. of India as on 30-09-2015 was Rs.3.24 Lakh crores. As per information made available by the States/DISCOMs, the outstanding loans at end of FY 2018-19 stand at Rs.351,291 Crore, out of which Rs.63,355 crore is the amount of loan balance to be converted into grants by the states.

(b) to (d) : Yes, Sir. States have been advised to clear their Government Department dues and ensure monthly clearance of the same; put in place a strict system of energy accounting; timely payment of subsidy every month; carry out a campaign to reduce theft and AT&C losses; and conversion of all consumer meters into smart prepaid/prepaid meters in a period of 3 years.
