

Shri Navneet Sahagal, I.A.S.
Chairman & Managing Director,
UP Power Corporation Limited,
Shakti Bhawan,
Lucknow

Sub: Regarding theft of Electricity and Consumer Checking.

Sir,

Reference to the News item published in Dainik Jagaran dated 4th July 2010, we welcome your initiative to bring down the line losses and fix responsibility of the local employees of the DISCOM's, wherever line losses are high.

We however would like to submit that the problem can not be solved through such raids / special checking drives rather the solution lies in implementing the existing systems at least for industries as under :-

1. Parallel meters are installed in almost all the industries where bulk power is consumed. Consumer at the most may temper with his meter but can not do so with the meters installed on the pole and at the substations. Meter reading is recorded every month hence accuracy of the consumer meter can be verified easily. But this is not being done.
2. Meters are installed at the Substation's also. The difference in the power supplied and power consumed can be monitored easily. If the difference is beyond permissible limits, the local employees should get into action immediately and should not relax till cause is detected and corrected. If it is done properly, there will be no need to dispatch the inspection teams involving very senior officers of the level of S.E.
3. Electronic meters are now installed ever where. These meters records and monitor the maximum consumption apart from other important parameters. As such there is no need to enter the factory/consumers premises to check the connected load. Unfortunately the meter records are not used to compare the sanctioned load and to take corrective actions.
4. The departments intelligence machinery should be trained such that raids are conducted only when confirmed information of by passing the meter/tapping the supply lines is there. If the supply is going through the meter then there should not be any raid/inspection of the premises of the consumer. The systems/procedures stated at 1 to 3 above will only suffice.

5. Ignorance of law is no excuse in our judicial system. However the fact remains that every consumer is not and can not be master of Electricity Act and Electricity Code. As such any offence due to ignorance should be treated through a warning for the first time and penalty may be imposed only if the offence is repeated. At the same time DISCOM's should launch consumer awareness complain through electronic and print media on few common offences and the repercussions thereof.
6. Hon'ble Energy Minister and Officers above the rank of Executive Engineer should concentrate on planning, design innovation and system designs only and not conducting raids. It very unfortunate when we learn that Hon'ble Minister is heading the raid/inspection squad. It clearly shows that the systems have to be checked and improved first.
7. The focus needs to be on earning the profit through sale/purchase/production electricity and improvement in the systems rather than setting the targets for collection of money through penalties and compounding.

We are confident that if our above submission is considered favourably all of us i.e. DISCOM's, Consumers and the Government will be in a Win – Win situation. If you so desire we can discuss these proposals in detail with you.

Thanking you,

Yours Truly,



G.C. Chaturvedi

Convener, Electrical Working Group & Former President IIA