

Origins and Development of Electricity Laws in India-

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The Upanishadic Chant of Brihadaranyak Upanishad speaks of the significance of light, a benevolent gift of God Almighty, which certainly leads humankind, from darkness to light.

Scientifically speaking, electricity is the set of physical phenomena associated with the presence and motion of electric charge. The history of electricity as detailed herein would go on to show that the same is more of a discovery rather than an invention. Long before any knowledge of electricity existed, humans were aware of shocks from electric fish. Ancient Egyptian texts dating from 2750 BC referred to these fish as the "Thundered of the Nile", and described them as the "protectors" of all other fish. Electric fish were again reported millennia later by ancient Greek, Roman and Arabic naturalists and physicians.^[2] Several ancient writers, such as Pliny the Elder and Scribonius Largus, attested to the numbing effect of electric shocks delivered by catfish and electric rays, and knew that such shocks could travel along conducting objects.^[3] Patients suffering from ailments such as gout or headache were directed to touch electric fish in the hope that the powerful jolt might cure them.^[4] Possibly the earliest and nearest approach to the discovery of the identity of lightning, and electricity from any other source, is to be attributed to the Arabs, who before the 15th century had the Arabic word for (lightning) applied to the electric ray.^[5]

Thunderbolts and lightning have been observed and mentioned by humans in various literary and historical sources. However, exploitable form of electricity, which the world is using in the recent years, is output of ample number of experiments on electricity initiated right from the 600 BC. *Thales of Miletus* (624–546 BC), a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer from Miletus in Asia Minor (present day Millet in Turkey) was the first to recognize the existence of electric power in the nature. Thales had first found the seeds of static electricity, by proposing a theory that, rubbing a fur would make a couple of objects attract one another. Thales was the first to produce the electric sparks, by rubbing the amber. The word "electricity" came into existence, in the year 1600, by the scientist William Gilbert.

In modern times, people around the world cannot think of their lives without electricity.

Electricity is been one of the major asset for everyday works. Electricity is the energy produced by the nature, but it took lot of years for the humans to appreciate how electricity can be used to get things done. For thousands of years, people all across the world were fascinated by the captivating phenomenon called - lightning. We, humans, out of our inquisitiveness used to think on how to put that kind of power to practical use. However, it wasn't until the 18th century that the path to the everyday use of electrical power began to take shape.

It is believed that Benjamin Franklin, one of the founding fathers of United State of America, who was a scientist and an inventor, proved in 1752, that lightning was electrical, by flying a kite during a thunderstorm. He tied a metal key onto the string and, as he suspected it would, electricity from the storm clouds flowed down the string, which was wet, and he received an electrical shock. Franklin was extremely lucky not to have been seriously hurt during this experiment, but he was excited to have proved his idea.

Throughout the next century thereafter, inventors and scientists tried finding a way to use electrical power to make light. Finally, in 1879, the American inventor Thomas Edison was fable to produce a reliable, long-lasting electric light bulb in his laboratory. By the end of the 1880s, small electric stations based on Edison's designs came up in a number of U.S. cities, which could power only a few city blocks. Other names connected with the innovations in the field of electricity are James Watt (1736-1819), William Thompson (1824-1907), Michael Faraday (1791-1867), James Maxwell (1831-1879), Nikola Tesla(1856-1943), Alexander Graham Bell(1847-1922), Heinrich Hertz(1857-1894) and Albert Einstein (1879-1955).

Electricity, we all know, is defined as the flow of charged particles named electrons via conductive medium. Electricity is certainly one of the most important inventions that science has made for the mankind. Having become a part of modern life, one cannot comprehend a world without Electricity. Electricity has different uses in our day to day life. It is used for lighting our rooms, working fans and running domestic appliances like using electric stoves, A/C and more. All these provide comfort to people. In factories, large machines are worked with the help of electricity. Essential items like food, cloth, paper and many other things are the product of electricity. Telecommunications, which is a part of the basic infrastructure of the country, is largely dependent on an unabated and uninterrupted supply of electricity. Electricity, therefore, is an amenity which we all, as humans require to reach our true

potential.

Coming on to Indian context, the use and enjoyment of electricity encompasses within its fold the compliances of certain laws and regulations, which one needs to comply and the Laws in our country with respect to the generation and transmission of electricity revolve around the Electricity Act 2003. The drafting of this act, which marks a watershed in the history of the laws of electricity, has had many rounds of discussions and deliberations before it could shape up into the present legislation. The Electricity Bill 2001 after having been redrafted seven times was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 30, 2001. Due to an inconclusive debate, the matter was referred to the Standing committee on Energy for a detailed analysis.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee presented its report on December 19, 2002 and most of its recommendations were accepted by the Government and incorporated in the Bill. The refined Electricity Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on April 9, 2003. However, on reaching the upper house, certain anomalies in the bill were pointed out by the members, but looking into urgency of much needed reforms in the power sector and the assurance of the Government that amendments would be brought out in the enactment in the next session of parliament, the Rajya Sabha also passed the bill on May 5, 2003, which received assent of The President of India on May 26, 2003. Thereafter The Electricity Act 2003 was notified in the official Gazette of India on June 2, 2003. The Electricity Act 2003 (except Section 121) was enforced by the Union Government on 04 June 2003. Besides the enforcement of the Act, The Government gave an assurance that all rules and regulations for effective functioning of the Act shall be formulated within next twelve months.

Historical Backdrop of Legislations on Electricity in India

- a. The **Indian Electricity Act of 1910**, which provided for the basic framework for electric supply industry in India, providing for a legal framework for laying down of wires and other works.
- b. The **Electricity (Supply) Act of 1948**, which paved way for the creation of State Electricity Boards and to extend electrification across the country.
- c. An Amendment in the Electricity Act was made in **1975** to enable generation in Central sector and to bring in commercial viability in the functioning State Electricity Boards.

- d. A further Amendment in **1991** was made paving way for the opening of generation to private sector and establishment of Regional Load Dispatch Centers.
- e. The amendment of 1998 was made, providing for private sector participation transmission, while also making a provision relating to Transmission Utilities.
- f. The **Electricity Regulatory Commission Act of 1998** enacted a provision for setting up of Central / State Electricity Regulatory Commissions with powers to determine the electricity tariffs for various categories of consumers.
- g. The **Electricity Act 2003**, formulated to bring about a qualitative transformation of the electricity sector through a new paradigm.

Electricity Act 2003-A Backdrop and Salient Features

Power, a part of the basic infrastructure has emerged as a basic human need. A Part of critical infrastructure, Power is an amenity on which our economic activity is fully dependent. In terms of the latest report of the World Bank, released earlier this month, India is doing “extremely well” on electrification with nearly 85% of the country’s population having access to electricity, the World Bank has said. The report further says that “Between 2010 and 2016, India is providing electricity to 30 million people each year, more than any other country”

Electricity Act, 2003 sought to bring about a qualitative transformation of the electricity sector through a new paradigm. The Act sought to create liberal framework of development for the power sector by distancing Government from regulation. It replaced the three existing legislations, namely, Indian Electricity Act, 1910, the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. The objectives of the Act were *“to consolidate the laws relating to generation, transmission, distribution, trading and use of electricity and generally for taking measures conducive to development of electricity industry, promoting competition the rein, protecting interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalization of electricity tariff, ensuring transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies, constitution of Central Electricity Authority, Regulatory Commissions and establishment of Appellate Tribunal and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”*

The Act intended to strike a balance, taking into account the complex ground realities of the power sector in India with its intractable problems.

The salient features of the Act are:

1. Generation has been relicensed and captive generation has been freely permitted. Any generating company may establish, operate and maintain a generating station without obtaining a license under the Act with only exception that it should comply with the technical standards relating to connectivity with the grid.

2. The Act carves out a mandatory provision to the effect that no person shall:-

(a) Transmit

(b) Distribute, or

(c) Undertake trading in electricity, unless he is authorized to do so under a license issued as per law.

3. Post the 2003 Act, no license is required for generation and distribution of electricity in rural India.

4. Central Government has been authorized to make region-wise demarcation of the country for the **efficient, economical and integrated** transmission and supply of electricity, and in particular to facilitate voluntary inter-connection and co-ordination of facilities for the inter-State, regional and inter-regional generation and transmission of electricity.

5. Setting up state electricity regulatory commission (SERC) has been made mandatory.

6. Provisions relating to thefts of electricity have now been made more stringent.

7. For rural, remote and un-serviced areas stand-alone system for generation and distribution permitted.

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005:-

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23rd December, 2005 to amend the Electricity Act, 2003. Post the amendment, the offences relating to theft of electricity, electric lines, and interference with meters have been made cognizable

offences. It also clarifies that the police have the power to investigate cognizable offences under the Act.

In order to facilitate speedy trials of cases under the Act, it provides that a Special Court (the state government can constitute any number of Special Courts for such areas as may be specified, to facilitate speedy trials of offences) shall be competent to take cognizance of an offence without the accused being committed to it for trial.

The Electricity Act governs the following, among other things:

Generation of Electricity: Licensing requirements have been removed for the generation of electricity. Anyone having resources and complying with the statutory requirements can develop a generating station in accordance with the applicable Indian laws. Generating companies are now permitted to sell electricity to any trading and distribution licensee and to consumers directly.

Transmission of Electricity- Transmission is a regulated activity that requires a license from the appropriate regulatory commission. Central Government is required to designate one government company as the central transmission utility, which would be deemed a transmission licensee. Similarly, each state government designates one government company as a state transmission utility, which would also be deemed as a transmission licensee. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions are the regulators and licensors for anyone seeking to undertake transmission activities. In terms of Section 38 of the electricity Act, CTUs are prohibited from generating electricity or trading in electricity. The prohibition on STUs, although is only for engaging in trading in electricity. In terms of Section 41 of the Electricity Act, transmission licensees are also authorized to engage in any other business in addition to transmission, provided that a prior notice is given to the appropriate regulatory commission.

Trading in Electricity- Trading of electricity is a licensed activity, which is defined as the purchase of electricity for resale to any person (Electricity Act), which can involve either:-

- a. wholesale supply (i.e., purchasing power from generators and selling to the distribution licensees); or
- b. Retail supply (i.e., purchasing from generators or distribution licensees for sale to end consumers).

The regulatory authorities responsible for granting a trading license are CERC (if the trading is proposed to be inter-state) and SERC (if the trading is proposed to be intra-state). A trading licensee must keep the accounts of the trading business separate from any other business carried out by it.

Distribution and retail supply: The Electricity Act does not make any distinction between distribution and retail supply of electricity. Distribution is a licensed activity and distribution licensees are allowed to undertake trading without any separate license. In terms of Section 51 of the electricity Act, a distribution licensee can engage in any other business with prior notice to the appropriate commission.

Regulatory authorities under the Act :-

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1. **Ministry of Power (MoP)** for the regulation and development of the electricity sector.
 2. **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** for the regulation of new and renewable forms of energy.
 3. **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** for regulating the tariff of generating stations owned by the central government, or those involved in generating or supplying in more than one state.
 4. **State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERCs)** for each state, to regulate intra-state transmission and supply of electricity within the jurisdiction of each state.
 5. **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** for the technical co-ordination and supervision of programme/policies.
 6. **Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL)**- An appellate body for appeals against the orders of the commissions (CERC and SERCs).
 7. **National Load Dispatch Centre**, to schedule and dispatch electricity over inter-regional links in accordance with grid standards.
 8. **Regional Load Dispatch Centre:** For the integrated operation of the power system in its own region. (Northern, Eastern, North eastern, Southern and Western Regions)

Power Supply Position in India

The power supply position in the country during 2009-10 to 2017-18:

Year	Energy				Peak			
	Requirement	Availability	Surplus(+)/Deficits(-)		Peak Demand	Peak Met	Surplus(+) / Deficits(-)	
	(MU)	(MU)	(MU)	(%)	(MW)	(MW)	(MW)	(%)
2009-10	8,30,594	7,46,644	-83,950	-10.1	1,19,166	1,04,009	-15,157	-12.7
2010-11	8,61,591	7,88,355	-73,236	-8.5	1,22,287	1,10,256	-12,031	-9.8
2011-12	9,37,199	8,57,886	-79,313	-8.5	1,30,006	1,16,191	-13,815	-10.6
2012-13	9,95,557	9,08,652	-86,905	-8.7	1,35,453	1,23,294	-12,159	-9.0
2013-14	10,02,257	9,59,829	-42,428	-4.2	1,35,918	1,29,815	-6,103	-4.5
2014-15	10,68,923	10,30,785	-38,138	-3.6	1,48,166	1,41,160	-7,006	-4.7
2015-16	11,14,408	10,90,850	-23,558	-2.1	1,53,366	1,48,463	-4,903	-3.2
2016-17	11,42,929	11,35,334	-7,595	-0.7	1,59,542	1,56,934	-2,608	-1.6

	Energy				Peak			
2017-18	12,12,134	12,03,567	-8,567	-0.7	1,64,066	1,60,752	-3,314	-2.0
2018-19*	1,04,297	1,03,761	-536	-0.5	1,62,673	1,61,286	-1,387	-0.9

* Up to April 2018 (Provisional), Source: CEA

A perusal of the above chart exhibits a constant progress we, as a nation have been making towards the realization of the dream of our founding fathers and the lessening gap between the demand and supply is certainly a positive move, which needs to be appreciated while trying to constantly improve upon the situation by reaching an equilibrium between the demand and supply of electricity.

Categories of Electricity Consumers: Coming on to the categories of the consumers of the Electricity, the same is dependent on the user. The distribution companies (Discoms) provide electricity at different rates to different categories of consumers. Every state has different categories that cater to the requirements of the consumers of those states. However, the most common categories of consumers are domestic (residential), commercial (shops and offices) and Industrial (manufacturing units). With rates being lowest for residential consumers and highest for industrial consumers, within these categories there are separate rates for LT and HT lines. Therefore, the categories of the Electricity consumers can be listed down in the following broad categories:-

- a. Domestic-LT: for most individual residential connections.
- b. Commercial-LT: for small shops and offices. Also for hotels, guest houses, theatres, etc.
- c. Industrial-LT: for very small manufacturing units (like bakery, stone cutting, flour mills, etc.).

- d. Domestic-HT: Bulk supply for residential colonies.
- e. Commercial-HT: for bigger offices, film studios, etc.
- f. Industrial-HT: for most heavy industries like Iron and Steel Industries.

It may be noted that many a times these categories may also differentiated depending on the connected load and the tariffs may increase if the connected load is higher.

Theft of Electricity:

Lamenting the rising incidents of Electricity thefts in the country resulting in causing huge losses, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in the case of **Jagmodhan Mehatabsing Gujral And Others v. State Of Maharashtra**⁶ was constrained to note that *“Large-scale theft of electricity is a very alarming problem faced by all the State Electricity Boards in our country, which is causing loss to the State revenue running in hundreds of crores of rupees every year. In our considered view, after proper adjudication of the cases of all those are found to be guilty of the offence of committing theft of electricity; apart from the sentencing and conviction, the court should invariably impose heavy fine making theft of electricity a wholly non profitable venture. The most effective step to curb this tendency perhaps could be to discontinue the supply of electricity to those consumers temporarily or permanently who have been caught abstracting electricity in a clandestine manner on more than one occasion.”* The lament of the Hon'ble Court has been taken note of in the formulation of the Law which provides for a more effective and logical handling of the cases relating to theft of electricity.

The offence of Theft of Electricity has been detailed and defined in Section 135 of Electricity Act, 2003 , which reads as follows:-

Whoever,

Dishonestly, (signifying the existence of mens rea)

(a) taps, makes or causes to be made any connection with overhead, underground or under water lines or cables, or service wires, or service facilities of a licensee or supplier, as the case may be; or

(b) tampers a meter, installs or uses a tampered meter, current reversing transformer, loop connection or any other device or method which interferes with accurate or proper registration, calibration or metering of electric current or otherwise results in a manner whereby electricity is stolen or wasted; or

(c) damages or destroys an electric meter, apparatus, equipment, or wire or causes or allows any of them to be so damaged or destroyed as to interfere with the proper or accurate metering of electricity; or;

(d) Uses electricity through a tampered meter; or

(e) Uses electricity for the purpose other than for which the usage of electricity was authorized, so as to abstract or consume or use electricity **shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both:**

The section makes it clear that the dishonest intention is the foundation on which the prosecution under section 135 of the Electricity Act proceeds.

Post the Lodgment of an FIR, as per sec 135 of the above Act :

1. **Provisional assessment** is made (Section 126(2) of the Electricity Act 2003).
2. Consumer is advised to pay the same.
3. Consumer can pay the provisional assessment immediately under protest and can seek restoration of supply.
4. Licensee on deposit/payment of the assessed amount restores the supply within 48hrs.
5. The occupant/any person on his behalf remain present during the search.
6. **List of all things seized during the search should be prepared and issued to the occupant who shall sign the list.**
7. No search/inspection and seizure of any domestic place or premises should be conducted between sunset and sunrise except in the presence of an adult male member occupying such premises.
8. **The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973(2 of 1974) relating to search**

and seizure shall apply in this regard.

Procedure adopted by the Discoms after detection of Theft of Energy

- **Supply will be disconnected immediately on detection of theft.**
- **Provisional Assessment, Compounding Charges will be calculated by the authorized officer.**
- **Consumer will be advised to pay the said charges.**
- **If the consumer fails to pay the compounding Charges, criminal complaint will be lodged by the Authorized Officer, with the Police department within 24 hours.**
- **If the consumer pays the Provisional Assessment amount, the supply will be restored within 48 hrs.**
- **If the consumer deposits the compounding charges, under Section 152 of Electricity Act 2003.**

Cognizance of offences (Section 151):

The Court shall not take cognizance of any offence under this act Unless a complaint is filed in writing-

- Appropriate Government or
- Appropriate Commission or
- Any of their officer authorized by them or
- A Chief Electrical Inspector or
- An Electrical Inspector or
- Licensee or
- The generating company,

Compounding of offences (Section 152):

Only two entities can compound an offence

- the Appropriate Government

- or any officer authorized by it in this behalf

The *Code of Criminal Procedure 1973*, shall not have application for compounding of offence.

TABLE FOR COMPOUNDING

SN	Nature of Service	Rate at which the sum of money for compounding to be collected per Kilowatt (KW)/ Horse Power (HP) or part thereof for Low Tension (LT) supply and per Kilo Volt ampere (KVA) of contracted demand for High Tension (HT)
1	Industrial Service	Twenty thousand rupees;
2	Commercial Service	Ten thousand Rupees;
3	Agricultural Service	Two thousand Rupees;
4	Other Services	Four thousand rupees;

In terms of Section 152 of the Electricity Act, it is mandated that on payment of the sum of money in accordance with the compounding of offence any person in custody in connection with that offence shall be set at liberty and no proceeding shall be instituted or continued against such consumer or person in any criminal court. The acceptance of the sum of money for compounding an offence in accordance with sub-section (1) by the Appropriate Government or an officer empowered in this behalf shall be deemed to amount to an acquittal within the meaning of section 300 of the *Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973*. However compounding of an offence under sub-section shall be allowed **only once** for any person or consumer.

Judicial Interpretations:-

1. Recently, the Supreme Court bench of Justice Rohinton Nariman and Justice Navin Sinha, setting aside a judgment dated March 30, 2017 of the Bombay High Court, in the case of Suresh Ganpati Halvankar v. State of Maharashtra⁷ held that the offence of 'interference with meters or works of licensee' under section 138 of the Electricity Act of 2003 also relates to the theft of electricity and hence, is compoundable under section 152 of the Act.

Speaking on the relationship between Section 126 and 135 of the Electricity Act (which are very relevant to our business as well, as they seemingly give an impression of being overlapping provisions), the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in the case of **Southern Electricity Supply Co. of Orissa Ltd. V. Sri Seetaram Rice Mills** held as follows :-

1. "29. Thus, it would be clear that the expression unauthorized use of electricity under Section 126 of the 2003 Act deals with cases of unauthorized use, even in the absence of intention. These cases would certainly be different from cases where there is dishonest abstraction of electricity by any of the methods enlisted under Section 135 of the 2003 Act. A clear example would be, where a consumer has used excessive load as against the installed load simpliciter and there is violation of the terms and conditions of supply, then, the case would fall under Section 126 of the 2003 Act. On the other hand, where a consumer, by any of the means and methods as specified under Sections 135(a) to 135(e) of the 2003 Act, has abstracted energy with dishonest intention and without authorization, like providing for a direct connection bypassing the installed meter, the case would fall under Section 135 of the Act."

In paragraph 87 of the said judgment, the Hon'ble Supreme Court summarized the issue in the following terms:-

"1. Wherever the consumer commits the breach of the terms of the Agreement, Regulations and the provisions of the Act by consuming electricity in excess of the sanctioned and connected load, such consumer would be in blame and under liability within the ambit and scope of Section 126 of the 2003 Act.

2. The expression unauthorised use of electricity means as appearing in Section 126 of the 2003 Act is an expression of wider connotation and has to be construed purposively in contrast to contextual interpretation while keeping in mind the object and purpose of the Act. The cases of excess load consumption that the connected load inter alia would fall under Explanation (b)(iv) to Section 126 of the 2003 Act, besides it being in violation of

Regulations 82 and 106 of the Regulations and terms of the Agreement.

3. In view of the language of Section 127 of the 2003 Act, only a final order of assessment passed under Section 126(3) is an order appealable under Section 127 and a notice-cum-provisional assessment made under Section 126(2) is not appealable.

4. Thus, the High Court should normally decline to interfere in a final order of assessment passed by the assessing officer in terms of Section 126(3) of the 2003 Act in exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

5. The High Court did not commit any error of jurisdiction in entertaining the writ petition against the order raising a jurisdictional challenge to the notice/provisional assessment order dated 25-7-2009. However, the High Court transgressed its jurisdictional limitations while travelling into the exclusive domain of the assessing officer relating to passing of an order of assessment and determining the factual controversy of the case.

6. The High Court having dealt with the jurisdictional issue, the appropriate course of action would have been to remand the matter to the assessing authority by directing the consumer to file his objection, if any, as contemplated under Section 126(3) and require the authority to pass a final order of assessment as contemplated under Section 126(5) of the 2003 Act in accordance with law.”

1. In a case, with respect to the applicability of the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act 1986 on the disputes between the Discoms and Consumers, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in the case of **U.P. Power Corporation Ltd. and Ors. Vs. Anis Ahmad**⁹ held as follows:-

“(i) In case of inconsistency between the Electricity Act, 2003 and the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the provisions of Consumer Protection Act will prevail, but ipso facto it will not vest the Consumer Forum with the power to redress any dispute with regard to the matters which do not come within the meaning of "service" as defined Under Section 2(1)(o) or "complaint" as defined Under Section 2(1)(c) of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(ii) A "complaint" against the Assessment made by assessing officer Under Section 126 or against the offences committed Under Sections 135 to 140 of the Electricity Act, 2003 is not maintainable before a Consumer Forum.

(iii) The Electricity Act, 2003 and the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 runs parallel for giving

redress to any person, who falls within the meaning of "consumer" Under Section 2(1)(d) of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 or the Central Government or the State Government or association of consumers but it is limited to the dispute relating to "unfair trade practice" or a "restrictive trade practice adopted by the service provider"; or "if the consumer suffers from deficiency in service"; or "hazardous service"; or "the service provider has charged a price in excess of the price fixed by or under any law".

It may be indicated that the growing menace of Electricity Thefts motivated the Bollywood to come up with a movie titled *Katyaabaaz* (Electricity thief) released under the alternate title *Powerless* for English-speaking audiences. On 28 August 2014, the Government of Uttar Pradesh exempted the film from entertainment tax, while also directing the engineers of State Power Department to watch the film and draw inspiration to stop the proliferation of illegal connections.

Though the situation looked grim and out of control, still, the Power Corporations, using innovative methods like Prepaid Meters and enhanced vigilance initiatives by deployment of senior police personnel on deputation and developing a robust mechanism to track electricity thefts is already proceeding on a roadmap, which is certainly a need of the hour. The genuine consumers like us look up to the government to come up policies and practices which are user and industry- friendly so that the benefits of such policies are reaped by the public at large, which is the ultimate beneficiary of all the initiatives which the government makes.

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