

**Reply to : Calling attention motion – tabled by Shri. Vijay Sardesai M.L.A.
Shri. Carlos Ferreira, M.L.A. and Shri. Ganesh Gaonkar, MLA.**

“Fear and anxiety in the minds of the people regarding frequent power outages in the State of Goa specially during monsoons. Dangerous condition of trees and old electrical poles, shortage of conductors and insulators and others spares has which has led to power outages. The steps the Government intends to take in the matter in future”.

In order to minimize power failures, timely appropriate maintenance of lines and the substation such as pruning of trees, replacement of deteriorated poles, re-jumpering of overhead lines, greasing of AB switches, maintenance of transformers, circuit breakers and other equipment's, are carried out regularly by the Department. However, increased power supply failures occur during monsoons due to cyclonic winds, lighting, thundering, heavy wind and rain thereby causing falling of trees/tree branches on power lines resulting in breakage/snapping of the conductors, puncturing of insulators, uprooting of poles and lines etc. which are beyond the control of the Department.

The Electricity Department has initiated a number of projects for conversion of existing overhead conductors with underground cabling and high amperage HTLS conductor. Major 33KV feeders in Goa such as Thivim 1 and Thivim 2 supplying power to Saligao & Porvorim areas, Mapusa 1 and 2 supplying power to Mapusa city, MPT1 and MPT2 supplying power to the Vasco city through Sancoale substation are replaced with HTLS conductor. Major works of replacement of Overhead conductors to underground cabling is being carried out of the these 11KV feeders / areas: Batim, Santacruz, Bicholim city, Assonora and Bordem, Shirgao, Kothambi, Nerul and Batim, Bansai and part of Xelvona and Rivona feeder, Kakoda, Undir and Durbhat, Sancoale Industrial feeder, MES college feeder, Mandrem, Morjim, Anjuna, Torla and Mapusa town. A number of projects related to conversion of LT overhead lines are being carried out in various parts of North and South Goa. New 33/11KV substation at Calangute and Altinho has been completed and new substations at Mandrem and Tuem are in final stages of completion.

The Department has also initiated various measures such as installation/upgradation of power transformer at EHV Substation, bifurcation of lengthy and loaded feeders, addition of DTCs , conversion of the overhead lines to underground cabling across the State etc. to minimize interruptions due to falling of trees, branches etc. The EHV substation at Thivim has been upgraded and the substations at Ponda and Verna are presently being upgraded. The tender process for the new 220KV Saligoa GIS substation is completed and the project is approved by GSWB. The order for the same will be placed within a month. Similarly, the Preliminary project report of 220KV substation at Loutolim in South Goa has been prepared and detailed report is under preparation. The project will be tendered within next 3 months.

The Department had installed ABC (Aerial Bunch Cables) which are intertwined insulated cables with a view for ensuring stable power supply to consumers in various parts of Goa. A total of around 731.66 kms of the cable was laid & out of which 498.68 was initially charged. However, the Aerial Bunched Cable and jointing kits are exposed to Sun, Cold weather and Rain, due to which the jointing kits and AB cable fails/get punctured continuously, especially during rainy season .To restore the power supply after tracing the faults and providing new jointing kits, the time consumed is normally two to three hours as the kits have to dry up after replacing the faulty Aerial Bunched Cable section. As such, the power supply for feeding supply to full feeder in the area gets interrupted. Hence, wherever possible, alternate power supply/Ring feeding power arrangements are made. Presently total length of AB cable in service as on date is 448.93 KMS.

The old deteriorated poles are being replaced by the Department. Although there was shortage of conductors for a brief period, the same have been procured and are presently available at the Central Stores. Insulators and other spares are also available at the Central Stores. The Department is also in the process of procurement of Mobile Cable Fault Detection van at an approximate cost of Rs. 3.8 Crores for facilitating ease and fast detection of faults. The outages are mainly attributed to the vagaries of nature and there are no lacunae from the Department's side.