

Aim to boost power sector efficiency

Team TOI

Finance minister Suresh Khanna proposed a Rs 65,926 crore outlay for the energy sector, an 8% rise over last year, signalling an aggressive drive to improve reliability, efficiency and consumer experience across the state's electricity network.

The Budget combines capital investments (money spent on building or creating assets for the future which is Rs 20,103 crore) with revenue-side support (money spent on day-to-day expenses which is Rs 38,257 crore) to simultaneously strengthen infrastructure and keep power affordable.

On the capital side, the state has set aside about Rs 17,019.80 crore for generation, transmission and distribution projects.

A centrepiece of the plan is smart metering, with Rs 4,155.17 crore earmarked under a dedicated head to expand prepaid/AMI meters statewide. Officials say smart meters will reduce aggregate technical and commercial losses, enable accurate billing, and give consumers real-time visibility of consumption—key to improving discom finances and service quality.

The Budget provides Rs 2,920.99 crore for loss-reduction works, Rs 1,650 crore for IT/OT modernization, and Rs 1,045.19 crore for household electrification and feeder segregation.
