

Addressing Conference of Power, New & Renewable Energy & Mines Ministers of States & UT's at Goa on 16.06.16

Thank you very much Kamlesh, I just thought whether all the people who have come from all over India will start thinking that we are only story tellers. He gave us the story, you gave us the story I should have here avoided giving any stories in what I say. And Kamlesh has also set the tone for this celebration today when he said this will not be a monologue and I think that's the right message, to begin with, and it's also probably it was meant for me so that I don't speak too long. But clearly, I believe that this strength of our engagement and I am delighted that this is the fourth engagement since this government came in at the center. It's probably the first time in so many years that you have had Power Ministers Conference religiously every six months and we have tried to cover the length and breadth of the country. As you are all aware and I see many familiar faces here, we met in Delhi in September, August or September 2014, we met in Guwahati early 2015, we met in Kochin on 6th and 7th of November last year and it's now June so I believe it's a matter of immense satisfaction that in the last two years we have been able to maintain the discipline and the sanctity of this forum which, in some sense, represents the team which is going to change the future of India, which is going to change the very basis or foundation of making India a superpower which is recognized across the world not only for the sheer importance that electricity as a sector has in people's lives, the transformational nature of electricity in the life of the common man but also for the fact that the world today is recognizing that this team sitting in this room is truly committed to making a difference to the life of the poor, to making a difference to the life of the deprived, people in rural India, villagers, farmers, economically and socially backward people who for years have felt the absence of this basic amenity like power. I apologise I was slightly late but I just reached this morning at 2.30 and in the morning I couldn't resist after the sun rose that I spent some time at the beach and get some fresh air, just put my thoughts together for the deliberations that we are going to have for the next two days. But, clearly, I can see that there is a greater interest in these conferences with the participation that we have here today, I am told that 27 states have confirmed and 19 ministers have already arrived, I believe the rest are on their way and hopefully should be reaching soon. Last time I had mentioned about the importance that everybody participates at the highest level, more so, because this gives us a chance to learn from your experiences, to understand what is best for each state, what could be a better way to do it pan India and my own experience is that each one of the interactions we have had I have benefited immensely from that. आप लोगों के अनुभवों से, आप लोगों के विचारों से मुझे बहुत लाभ हुआ है, बहुत फायदा हुआ है, मैं उम्मीद करूँगा कि इस गोवा की महत्वपूर्ण कांग्रेस से भी आगे चलके बिजली के क्षेत्र में, विद्युत के क्षेत्र में हम तेज़ी से प्रगति कर पाएँगे, लाभ ले पाएँगे। मैं समझता हूँ सेक्रेटरी आप ज़रा जो स्टेट्स नहीं आए हैं पता तो करना क्यों नहीं आए हैं उन के सेक्रेटरी hopefully, आए होंगे। और अगर सेक्रेटरी ने भी बहिष्कार किया है तो फिर मेरे पास ज़रा रिपोर्ट मिल जाए कि फिर उस स्टेट के साथ आगे का फिर हमारा भी व्यवहार उसी प्रकार का होना पड़ेगा, पिछली बार भी मैंने ये बात कही थी I had made it very abundantly clear that we have a lot of time to help and solve problems of the states but it will have to be a two-way traffic it cannot be a one-way traffic. So I am very-very keen to know the reason why the states could not come, A. B, those who finally do not come at all. C, the secretary's attendance of all the secretaries from the states and the reasons if any for their not being here.

थोड़े बहुत Union Territories के ministers नहीं हैं इसमें से 8-10 वो मैं समझ सकता हूँ, नार्थ ईस्ट के ministers नहीं आ पा रहे हैं ज़रा आप समझने की कोशिश करिए कोई particular तकलीफ है क्या, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura का तो आप ने मुझे बताया विषय क्या था पर उन की कोई अगर विशेष तकलीफ है तो उसको हम resolve करें | मतलब एक तरीके से देखें तो last four conferences में हर एक में मेसेज था और एक तरीके से North East was the messaging from Guwahati, if you see Delhi, the first conference we were setting the context, what we need to do, what will be the future of the sector, how we plan to work together. We did a little bit of the root cause analysis, we prioritised what will be done in the next few years. In fact, that was soon after I had come back from a training programme in Gujarat where Sourabh Patel and his whole team in a similar room as big as this with as many people had educated me over the whole day about what needs to be done in the power sector, what was done in Gujarat which had transformed that sector and made it such a wonderfully viable performing sector. And I had just come back from Gujarat then after that we had that conference so in some sense we had set the context of our work in Delhi. If you all recall it was also a day when I had frequently gone in and out of the room at the Vigyan Bhawan because that's the day the judgment of the coal blocks cancellation was announced. So either it will be 25th of August or 24th of September, one of these two dates whatever was the date of that Power Ministers Conference. But, in some sense, that also helped us to change the very image of this sector, the very future of the power sector because it gave us an opportunity to bring about a change once and for all in the way natural resources in this country are given out. So I believe that Delhi Conference was a great opportunity to understand each other and set the context for the future. While speaking about these North Eastern states I had diverted to these subject because Guwahati, in that sense, sent a very strong signal that India will go to the North East, all of us from across the country will assemble in the North East and discuss the problems of India. It was the first time in the history of India that a National Conference of all Power Ministers or, for that matter, Ministers of any department from across India had ever met in the North East. And I must compliment all of the Ministers who had come there, sadly, some Ministers had not reached there possibly because it was too far off. And I distinctly remember the message being given to me. The great learning for me, a great insult for me was there when in Guwahati the local people told me that we always believe that we will have to go wherever you all call us, you call us in Mumbai, you call us in Delhi, you call us in South India and Bangalore and Bengaluru, in Hyderabad, anywhere, we used to always be required to travel long distances. It's the first time that people from Kochin and Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra and Gujarat also had gone all the way to the North East and I think that was the biggest message that the Power Ministers Conference in Guwahati gave. Particularly, when Eastern India and North East India have remained deprived of the benefits of development for nearly seven decades now, one of the important learnings for us from Guwahati was and this is something the honorable Prime Minister has been saying very often that unless the Eastern part of India develops, unless we care for North Eastern India we will never be able to change the future of India. The kind of concern, care, the amount of commitment that is required from all of us in this room towards Eastern India and that includes the states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Paschim Bengal those areas have over the years witnessed a certain apathy towards development. Seven sisters and Assam; seven sisters plus Sikkim, the eight states of North East truly deserve a very-very special attention. These are states which at one point of time almost felt alienated from the rest of India. Of course, there were also geopolitical reasons why we should be even more concerned about North East India. And therefore, I

think the Guwahati programme apart from the message from all of us towards energy efficiency, there we discussed a great deal about doing things fast, speed being very sense of our work, we focused a lot on transparency since that was the first session after the coal block auctions had taken place. And a lot of good messages came out from North East in the Guwahati session. Kochi, of course, was about UDAY when we met on 6th and 7th of November, I think that Conference will go down in history since it was the first time we had met after the Union Cabinet under Prime Minister Modi had approved UDAY on 5th of November that's one day I will never forget at least in my life because I do believe that that will be the most transformational reform ever embarked in the power sector in the history of India or as Upendra ji said possibly ever in the world.

The dimensions of UDAY are very comprehensive, very holistic, it addresses different aspects of this sector. A lot of pain and effort has gone in from all of you in creating UDAY. UDAY was not the effort of two or three Ministries at the center, UDAY was the joint and collective effort of the entire power sector working as a team, working as a group, working as one taking on board concerns and suggestions of every stakeholder in the power sector, be it the states, be it different Ministries within the states, be it bankers, consumers, generating companies, transmission companies. I remember the amount of effort that went into the creation of UDAY culminated in the Kochi session where we deliberated on the aspects of UDAY in a great deal. And, in some sense, this Goa Conference will be the first review of the progress made in about six months, seven months time towards achieving our ultimate goal of 24x7 power for every home in this country, 24x7 power for every industry, office, commercial establishment in this country and adequate and timely power for every farmer in the country. So if one was to ask me to set the context of the Goa Conference today what should be that one message that we all take back from Goa, I believe the message should be that from today we embark on our programme to achieve 100% electricity of every household and every farmer in this country. And I think that will be the message that the Goa Conference will take to the people of India, the message and the commitment of each and everyone in this room, hopefully, also those who are not present here that we stand committed to taking 100% electrification to every home in this country rich or poor, small or big, we stand committed to ensuring adequate power for every farmer in this country in the most cost efficient and sustainable manner. And if we can take that message from Goa and all of us work as a team in a transparent, honest, efficient and sustainable manner. I have no doubt in my mind that in the next two/two and a half/three years we can truly achieve significant parts of our dreams, of our plans, we can rollout UDAY much faster, the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana, ensure that as Upendra ji said the benefits of various schemes of the government of India are enjoyed by all the states in the country, the people in the length and breadth of the country in the fastest possible time and hopefully while just like Upendra ji said about the coconut story, while the power sector may look very hard to work with to my mind it's a very soft spot in the centre, it's a very easy opportunity. It's not at all difficult to make these game-changing decisions to create a difference in this sector, it's very much doable, it's not impossible, it's not as difficult as it may seem or as it seemed may be two years ago if we all work in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration. In fact, a session, a two-day conference like this and I was seeing the programme and even yesterday evening when I landed in Mumbai somebody met me and wanted to have a half an hour presentation on a particular sector and I said I suspect that if I add anymore to this programme possibly the next time we call a Power Ministers Conference everybody will fall ill. So I didn't want to

stress any further we already have got two whole working days and I don't know maybe next time we will have to look at three but we kept it in Goa, it's a beautiful time of the year in Goa, I particularly love Goa it's my favourite destination all through my life and Goa in the rains is truly a new experience for those of you who haven't been here in the rains. I hope you enjoy it, I hope you have a good time while you are here, I hope you use this time to interact informally to understand the genuine problems of each other officials, Ministers. Ministers represent a very important dimension in that they are connected to the people of India directly, very often the officialdom tends to take things a little too cut and dried and Upendra ji spoke about differential pricing and about the fact that domestic prices are higher in some of the western countries you spoke about Germany, I think that friend of yours would not be your batch mate. Point 1 and Point 2 and I hope nobody will misunderstand there is no hidden message in what I am going to say, I suspect that that gentleman who started that story of differential pricing being bad may either have studied in America or Europe or he may be a teacher in some University in Europe or in America. But clearly he doesn't understand the ground reality of India, he doesn't understand that the poor of India deserve to get cheaper power, he doesn't understand that a farmer who is having to face three bad monsoons because we were not able to irrigate our country in seven decades and ensure or insulate him from the problems of rainfall or monsoons being deficient often on. He probably doesn't understand the angst of that farmer who often goes and commits suicide because he is unable to pay the debt he took. I think India stands committed to having differential prices of power. India stands committed and this government of Prime Minister Modi is very clear and categorical that it will continue to support and encourage cheaper power for the poor, it will continue to support and even encourage and even help in whatever way it can the farmers of this country to get adequate power at the lowest possible cost which can help him sustain, which can help him hopefully double his income in five years, in four years why not in three years. And all of this is possible, our power prices per se are not very high, the problem that this nation faces is more of inefficiency, the problem that we face is more in terms of how we manage our infrastructure, what we have created as the mechanism to deliver benefits to the poor, the deprived, the farmers rather than the fact that they get a lower price. And just so that solar can be sold we will certainly not encourage prices to rise, we want all of this to become sustainable at the lowest possible prices. Of course, we stand committed to the environment, India has embarked on the world's largest renewable energy programme but we are doing it in a cost efficient manner. The transparent and honest bidding of solar projects has brought down prices by about 40%. The LED bulbs which at one time my own wife brought at something like Rs 2200 barely three or four years ago are today down to double-digit numbers. What we are procuring in the government of India and giving to all of you it's a different matter that some states have hijacked our support and called it a state programme. And I suspect that something which doesn't please me I can tell you that it's clearly a programme where we have, I see people smiling so they have understood *ishara kis taraf hai*, But clearly it was a programme that we conceptualized the honorable Prime Minister launched on 5th of January, 2015. We brought in great deal of transparency, high levels of quality standards, completely eliminated corruption and were able to bring down prices by 83% of LED bulbs. My own sense is that after the success of the LED bulb procurement the effort we have done towards procurement of distribution transformers, cables, smart meters, all of these where we are combining the effort of all the, the requirement of all the states and reaching it to the people of India, the benefit of more

honest procurement and better quality procurement which would benefit the people of India will be an effort where we will receive support from all the states. My office tells me that some states are hesitant to join that programme, I would only like to point out that the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana and the Integrated Power Development scheme which is largely funding these investments in this rollout of rural electrification and urban up gradation will be watching and closely monitoring the technology, the quality of products that are being brought by the states, will be monitoring the pricing at which these are being brought and the transparency with which these are being purchased and any problems associated with quality or technology or pricing or corruption that are brought to our notice will be promptly put up on the website. So it is a choice that the different states may make, if you believe you can do it better than the central procurement which also is been, by the way, done by a committee of states only. It's not as if the Union Government is procuring. We have created two committees, committee A, committee B. One to set up the specifications, second to run the transparent procurement process but if some states still feel they can do it better they are welcome. But the strength of this programme is the fact that we are all in it together, we are combining our procurement and the fact that the combined requirement gives us economies of scale, helps us to do the process more efficiently, more honestly and helps us to keep tab on the quality control so I would once again request states which are not willing to join that common procurement pool to study the benefits of that common procurement pool, do an apple to apple comparison, compare the specs that are being procured with your own specs, compare the prices that have been procured with your own prices before you take any decision to the contrary because any irregularity found by us in the centre could actually cause us to stop the funding of through these schemes various initiatives to those states which indulge in any activities which are not in the best interests of the people of India.

As I said earlier this Conference we would be doing a very significant review of UDAY programme. I am glad that most of the states have joined. We have two states who are signing the UDAY agreement today – Karnataka and Goa. My compliments to you Shiv Kumar ji and please convey to Mr. Siddaramaiah my appreciation for your joining UDAY. Goa Minister is here? Congratulations to you and please convey my congratulations to Mr Parsekar also. I have also a good piece of news that I have not yet been able to convey to you, Maharashtra had earlier joined early the Operational Efficiency benefits of UDAY since they were not a loss-making discom we had permitted them to do that. But I was extremely surprised because I thought the financial benefits are equally important to enjoy why not enjoy it. Just two days back when I was returning from Allahabad with the honourable Chief Minister of Maharashtra he told me that we are amending that we have withdrawn the cabinet note and we are amending it to join the financial scheme also and get the benefits of the financial package. And I asked him what made you change your mind because we are not forcing anybody anything it's all voluntary, he said no no I had a finance secretary earlier who was continuously opposing it but I replaced the finance secretary. The new fellow who came and he studied the benefits he came up to me and said we are foolish that we are not enjoying these benefits. And, therefore, we are withdrawing the cabinet note and going back to cabinet to also join the financial package. So I am just mentioning this not as a story but as a reality. Because this has happened only two days back and this only demonstrates and, of course, the UP Minister hasn't come as yet? मैं कई बार जिक्र करता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार ने जिस दिन ज्वाइन किया मुझे लगता है उस दिन मुझे सर्टिफिकेट मिला किये स्कीम

वास्तव में जनता के हित में है, सब के हित में है, अगर सिर्फ बी.जे.पी. के राज्य ज्वाइन करते तो शायद आलोचना हो सकती थी, क्रिटिसिज्म, कि ये तो बी.जे.पी. की स्कीम है या बी.जे.पी. वालों को ही फायदा देती है और मुझे याद है बिहार में हम चुनाव हारे थे शायद 10-15 दिन ही हुए थे बिहार के चुनाव हारे थे तो बिजेन्द्र जी ने फ़ोन करके मुझे कहा कि चुनाव हो गया अब काम पे लगे, हमारे उदय योजना के पेपर बनाओ जल्दी और मैं आपका तहे दिल से धन्यवाद करता हूँ बिजेन्द्र जी इसी तरीके से अखिलेश जी ने भी मुझे सहयोग दिया, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद ।

वास्तव में मैं आपको विश्वास दिलाता हूँ बिजेन्द्र जी कि इस स्कीम में हमने कभी किसी प्रकार का भेदभाव किसी भी राज्य के साथ नहीं किया चाहे राज्य में किसी की भी सरकार क्यूँ न हो और शायद आप सभी मित्रों ने महसूस किया होगा, यदि हमने किया है तो मैं अपने आप को कटघरे में खड़ा करने को तैयार हूँ । हमने कोशिश की दो वर्ष बिना कोई राजनीति करे देश हित के काम में राजनीति को न जोड़े, हाँ एक अगर हमने भेदभाव किया है और जिसका मुझे देवेन्द्र फण्डनवीस जी ने काफी सुनाया भी, उदय को चेंज करने के साथ-साथ, ये भी सुनाया कि हर मंत्री और मुझे चार मेरे colleagues के नाम गिनाए, हर मंत्री अपने राज्य के लिए कुछ न कुछ स्पेशल किया है और महाराष्ट्र के भी मेरे जो colleague ministers है बोला इन्होंने ये किया, इन्होंने ये किया तुम ही एक हो जिसने महाराष्ट्र के लिए कुछ स्पेशल नहीं किया है, और मुझे तो एक ज़माने में डर लगने लगा था कि मुझे re-nominate भी करेंगे कि नहीं और शायद मुझे ऑफर था शिव कुमार जी कर्नाटक से कि अगर मुझे नहीं ऑफर किया गया तो शायद आपके यहाँ से आप भेजेंगे जब कोयले की खदानों में आपको दी थी महाराष्ट्र से आपके पास, पर मैंने पूरे समय दो वर्ष तक ये कोशिश की है कि इस क्षेत्र में किसी प्रकार का भेद भावना होने के बावजूद जो पूर्वी भारत के राज्य हैं, जो उत्तर पूर्वी भारत के राज्य हैं – North East and Eastern India जो वंचित रहे हैं इतने वर्षों से प्रगति से, विकास से उनके प्रति उनके विकास के लिए हमने ज़रूर भेदभाव किया है अगर उसका आरोप मेरे ऊपर लगता है तो मैं उसके लिए क्षमा नहीं मांगूंगा लेकिन गर्व महसूस करूंगा क्यूँ कि वास्तव में वहां के जो हमारे भाई-बहन हैं उनका एक अधिकार है भारत की संपत्ति पे और हम सबकी ज़िम्मेदारी है कि हम उनके प्रति संवेदनशील रहे, हम उनके प्रति और उनके विकास के प्रति समर्पित रहे, और मुझे लगता है कि आज भी लगभग दो करोड़ घर उत्तर प्रदेश में, डेढ़ करोड़ घर बिहार में जिनको बिजली जैसे साधन की उपलब्धता नहीं है, ये आंकड़े डेढ़ – दो साल पुराने हैं तो भी परिवर्तन हो सकता है, 2012 के या 2011 के आंकड़े हैं, अच्छा 2011 के census के आंकड़े हैं । इसको हमने वेबसाइट पे रखा है कि सभी स्टेट्स में जो-जो परिवर्तन हुआ है पांच वर्षों में उसकी जानकारी दें तो उससे हमें आगे की प्लानिंग करने में और सुविधा हो जाएगी, लेकिन ये एक प्रकार से हम सबके लिए शर्म की बात है कि साढ़े पांच करोड़ घर आज भी वंचित है बिजली से और इस सेशन, इस पूरे दो-दिवसीय बैठक में हम इस विषय पे जोर दें कि कैसे इन पांच करोड़ घर तक, कैसे उन एक करोड़ किसान जो आज भी डीजल पे अपने tube well चलाते हैं उन तक हम बिजली पहुंचाएं, ग्रिड से हो, ऑफ ग्रिड से हो, सस्ते से सस्ता, अच्छे से अच्छा, जल्द से जल्द उन तक बिजली पहुंचे, उनके बच्चों को भी अच्छी शिक्षा मिले, उनको भी स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में सुविधा हो और उस वर्ग का हमें विशेष ध्यान देना है जो गरीब हैं, जो किसान हैं, जो वंचित हैं, शोषित हैं, पीड़ित हैं और उनके प्रति संवेदना रखने में मैं समझता हूँ किसी प्रकार का economic philosophy बीच में नहीं आ सकती है ये human element है ये economics और financial इसमें बीच में कोई आड़े आना नहीं चाहिए । हमने तय किया था कि इस वर्ष उदय के साथ-साथ और उदय में distribution sector – last mile connectivity का मैंने जिक्र किया hydro और wind दो ऐसे सेक्टर रहे हैं जिसके प्रति शायद उतना ध्यान नहीं दिया गया जितना देना चाहिए था, This year we will also focus on hydro and wind to get them back on track, to help them also prepare long-term sustainable growth plans, create better financial engineering packages or re-engineer the entire sectors to make them more sustainable and that will also be an important aspect of our deliberations over the next two days. Both rural and urban India deserve support, India is fastly becoming more and more urban, we have about 45-50% urban now

growing rapidly. But urban India faces tremendous pain in terms of power outages I think it's something we will all have to work together to get the problems of the cities and towns sorted out. We have to ensure 24x7 power in every town and city in the country, more so, because industrial growth, commercial growth all of these are closely linked to the availability of power in these areas where there is industry, where there is commerce, where there are exports. So it will be great if we can also look at the woes of urban India in some session during the course of the next two days.

Finally, मैं समझता हूँ कि हम जनता को साथ में जब जोड़ के अपने कार्यक्रमों को बढ़ाएँगे तभी इन कार्यक्रमों की सफलता हो पाएगी, आखिर एल.ई.डी. का प्रोग्राम इतनी तेज़ी से जो गो किया है कहाँ 6 लाख बल्ब एक साल में सरकार देती थी अभी-अभी सौरभ कुमार बता रहे थे कि आजकल 6 लाख बल्ब रोज़ बिकते हैं और ये सिर्फ़ ई.ई.एस.एल. द्वारा हैं बाकी प्राइवेट सेल अलग होती होगी | तो हमने जो इतना परिवर्तन किया ये जनता को सम्मिलित करके, जनता के साथ काम करके किया है | मैं समझता हूँ इसी प्रकार से जनता का सहयोग ले के हमने एक पॉवर थैफ़्ट के ऊपर एक महत्वपूर्ण कोशिश करनी चाहिए, ये अलग-अलग राज्यों की अलग-अलग समस्या है, ये राज्य स्तर पे इसके ऊपर मेहनत करनी पड़ेगी, काम करना पड़ेगा, मैं इतना सिर्फ़ बताना चाहूँगा कि ये समस्या गरीबों की नहीं है, ये मत सोचिए कि इसमें आपको राजनीतिक नुकसान होगा | गरीब चोरी कम करते हैं, किसान चोरी नहीं करते उनको वैसे ही सस्ती या मुफ्त बिजली मिलती है, अधिकाँश चोरी होती है तो उद्योग में होती है, बड़े लोगों द्वारा होती है | मैं कई बार मज़ाक में कहता हूँ कि आखिर वो गरीब जिसका बिल ही 100 रूपए, 50 रूपए, 80 रूपए आता है, वो क्या चोरी करेगा और क्या linesman को रिश्वत देगा, रिश्वत तो होती है जब बड़ी चोरी होती है तो linesman, डिपार्टमेंट के लोग, पता नहीं राजनीतिक लोग भी उसमें शामिल होते होंगे, इनकी होती है चोरी तो इस चोरी को रोकने में मैं समझता हूँ राजनीतिक लाभ है कोई नुकसान नहीं है, क्योंकि वो चोरी रोक के आप जनता के बिजली के बिल कम कर सकेंगे और ये एक प्रकार से गुजरात से मुझे सीखने को मिला, प्रधानमंत्री जब वहाँ मुख्यमंत्री थे पहले ही वर्ष में उन्होंने एकदम क्रेकडाउन किया चोरी के ऊपर और शायद सौरभ भाई तभी पॉवर मिनिस्टर, आप तब से हैं? You must be the veteran in the power sector. 2002, my God, 14 years! वनवास तो नहीं होने वाला है वहीं, 2002 में बड़ी आलोचना होती थी कि क्या कर रहे हो एक साल में चुनाव है आप ये चोरी के पीछे सब लोगों को जेल डाल रहे हो कितने एक लाख FIR file किए, BJP के भी कार्यकर्ताओं को जेल डाल दिया लेकिन उस काम की वजह से उन्होंने अपने पूरे बिजली के क्षेत्र को, पॉवर सेक्टर को सुधार दिया था | The electricity companies in Gujarat were having losses of 2,500 crores when Modi ji became Chief Minister, 2,500 crores, 14 years ago. You just imagine 14 years ago, 2,500 crores today would be equal to probably Rs 10-12,000 crore. Within a short span, he was able to convert that loss into a profit probably in 2 or 3 years. A loss of 2,500 crores became a profit of 500 crores, without increasing power tariffs. And when I was doing the study of the increase in tariff over the years of different states I found the lowest increase in tariff in the last 12 or 14 years has been in Gujarat, the lowest in the country. And yet it is a profit-making, self-sustaining power sector. When I was doing the UDAY calculations and I saw the debt, I saw Rs 1000 crores was the debt of Gujarat's discom. I actually Verma ji आप कुछ गलती कर रहे हैं it can't be 1000 crores, he said no it is 1000 crores I said but it's not possible, some mistake re-verify it. But I was immensely happy to see that if you do your job honestly, if you do your job efficiently and if you convey to the people that what you are doing is for their benefit and explain it how then I can promise each one of you that politically there is a great benefit in stopping power theft. And I would urge all of you आज कुछ सुझाव के रूप में some suggestions are going to be made about a programme that we have designed and will be offering it to you for your consideration. It's a federal structure I have never forced any state to do anything, if you feel it is useful for you, you may like to take up the campaign

against power theft and any support you require we will be happy to give for that but if we can work together in the spirit of collaboration that we have witnessed in the last two years I have no doubt in my mind that in the next may be two, may be three years, at best we can achieve the dream of 24x7, affordable, sustainable, environment friendly power for all, not by 2022, when India completes 75 years which we had originally targeted but by 2019, a good three years ahead of schedule. My best wishes to all of you for this conference, thank you very much for being here with us today and tomorrow. I do hope all of you will stay right until the end of the day tomorrow. I had particularly told them keep a Thursday, Friday so you can get a little time off on the weekend if it's possible for you to stay back. During the course of the day, I will personally be available also if you want to have any interaction with me on any specific issues. I hope in the conference we focus on policy issues, we can use a specific, state-specific example to help understand the situation or story better. But please focus on policy issues, individual issues can be flagged off either to me, to the secretaries, Mr Pandey was not introduced he is Additional Secretary, Power. All the other colleagues of Central government, state government are all here, any of you has a good idea which you have implemented may be Prateek you have done something, Ajay you have done something; any of you Mr Ravi Kumar is here. Anybody who has a good idea because I keep getting good ideas from all the states also, please take the opportunity in different sessions to share ideas, it will be a free for all, everybody is expected to participate whole-heartedly. All of you also please give time bilaterally to any of the states which want you to interact with their minister or want to talk to you the secretaries or state discom officials, everybody will be available for the next 36 hours for whatever is required to be discussed. At least our department works 24x7 I can assure you so you can take the benefit of even calling up anybody at 2 o'clock in the night they will be all be available. I hope कुछ गलत तो नहीं बोल रहा हूँ, तो हमारी केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से 24x7 we are available for the next 36 hours and for the next 36 months until!!

Thank you very much!