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Yeo Bee Yin

Ministry to ensure power producers pay RM198m debt

THE contribution arrears owed to the Electricity Supplies Industry Trust Account (AAIBE) by independent power producers (IPPs) has increased to RM197.9 million, the Dewan Rakyat was told yesterday.

Energy, Science, Technology, Environment, and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin said the arrears were for the period between 2008 and last year.

She said no IPPs would be spared from making payment of the outstanding contribution to AAIBE.

"To ensure IPPs meet the licensing requirement and contribute to AAIBE and Sabah AAIBE, the ministry, through the Energy Commission, has taken action to ensure that contributions for the financial year ending 2018 will be collected before Dec 31.

"The commission is also collecting arrears from 2008 to last year. For any IPP that is unable to make a one-off payment, negotiations are underway to allow the payment to be made via instalments, hence to clear the existing arrears," she said in her reply during question time at the Parliament here yesterday.

Yeo was replying to Chan Foong Hin (Pakatan Harapan-Kota Kinabalu), who asked about the status of AAIBE and how the money raised was used to develop the electricity industry, especially in renewable energy.

Yeo said to date the ministry managed to secure IPPs' commitment to pay RM100.7 million in arrears to AAIBE and RM4.8 million to Sabah AAIBE in instalments before Dec 31 next year.

On the use of AAIBE funds, Yeo said it was subject to *surat ikatan amanah* (trust deed), which involves research and development, as well as training and education.

"The use of these funds was based on a programme that promotes the use of electricity efficiency, development and promotion of the electricity supply industry, as well as electricity tariff impact."