

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of people affected by the atrocities and the number of people against whom action had been taken for the atrocities as on date, category-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of the action taken in each of the above cases;

(d) whether there is any delay in initiating action in the above incidents; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the Ministry of Home Affairs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Small hydro power projects

250. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether, out of 618 on-going small hydro power projects, only 140 projects are through private investment;

(b) whether the reluctance of the private investors to set up small hydro projects is due to State bureaucratic delays and delays in environmental clearances; and

(c) whether the Centre has asked the States with small hydro power potential, to streamline the clearance process to secure more investments from private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) So far 628 small hydro power (SHP) projects with an aggregate capacity of 2221 MW have been set up (as on 30.9.2008), of which 152 SHP projects aggregating 723.65 MW have been set up through private investment. During 10th Plan, out of a capacity addition of 537 MW from SHP projects, 336 MW have been set by the private sector.

(b) and (c) 23 States have announced policy for private sector participation in SHP projects. The response of private sector has been quite good. The procedures of allotment of sites and other statutory clearances including environment take some time in the State Governments. The Ministry has been pursuing the States to expedite the process in order to avoid delays.

Village electrification through solar electricity

251. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to provide solar electricity to all the remote villages in the country, under Remote Village Electrification Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of such remote villages identified in the country, particularly in Rajasthan;

(d) the number of remote villages covered till date and the targets set for 2008-09; and

(e) by when all the remote villages in the country would be electrified, particularly in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing the Remote Village Electrification Programme for providing basic facilities of lighting/electricity in all the eligible remote, unelectrified census villages and hamlets through various renewable energy sources, including solar energy. A Central Financial Assistance of upto 90% of the system costs is provided to the state implementing agencies for such projects. The criteria for eligibility of Villages and hamlets for the current year is as follows:-

1. Census villages not being covered under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana due to infeasibility of grid connectivity,
2. All unelectrified hamlets having population of less than 100, and
3. Hamlets having population above 100 but less than 300, in the districts which are not covered by REC in Phase-I of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.

(c) 6680 remote villages and hamlets have so far been identified in the country, which includes 417 census villages identified in Rajasthan.

(d) Central Financial Assistance has so far been sanctioned for coverage of 8719 remote villages and hamlets. A target of covering 1500 remote villages and hamlets has been set for the year 2008-09.

(e) Coverage of all the remote villages and hamlets under the Remote Village Electrification Programme depends upon identification of such villages by the states and submission of proposals by them as per the Programme provisions. Financial support to such proposals is considered in the Ministry on case-to-case basis and subject to availability of funds. In Rajasthan, out of 417 identified remote villages the state implementing agency has covered 292 villages with financial support from the Ministry. It has also intimated that it does not propose to cover the remaining 125 villages since they are either already electrified or the population has migrated.

Setting up of solar renewable energy projects

252. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether US based Astonfield Renewable Resources proposes to set up nation-wide solar renewable energy projects in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia*, indicating their locations; and

(c) what is the current total solar power energy and what would be the addition of this power during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?