

### **Remote Village Electrification Programme**

3327. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Remote Village Electrification Programme (RVEP) aimed at providing lighting/electricity facilities through renewable energy system where grid extension was technically not feasible or cost effective;

(b) if so, the number of remote villages and hamlets where lighting/electricity facilities have been provided; and

(c) whether the standing committee has pondered over the issue in any of the 2009-10 report and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Basic lighting/electricity facilities through various renewable energy systems have so far been provided in 5348 remote unelectrified villages and 1408 remote unelectrified hamlets.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Committee took note of the difficulties associated with identification by States of remote villages and hamlets to be covered under the Programme and suggested intensive coordination with the States for resolving the bottlenecks. The Committee also suggested that State-wise consolidated data on identified villages be maintained by the Ministry. The Ministry has accordingly intensified the coordination process, particularly with the help of the Coordination Panel set up for the Programme with representatives from concerned Ministries and States. Data on the identified villages is also now available with the Ministry for closer monitoring of the progress of their coverage.

### **Target of Solar Thermal Federation of India**

3328. SHRI ANIL H. LAD: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Solar Thermal Federation of India has set a target of having in place 20 million sq. mtrs of collector area by 2022;

(b) whether cellular towers that keeps mobile networks up and running consume about 2000 MW of power annually, mostly from diesel;

(c) if so, whether solar power could easily sustain the operations of mobile towers as also the targeted 20 million lighting systems in rural areas by 2022; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) A target of 20 million square metre of solar thermal collector area by 2022 has been fixed by the Government under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission. As per reports, the Solar

Thermal Federation of India (STFI) has indicated that achievement of about 18.7 million square meter of solar thermal collector area is possible as against the Mission target of 20 million square meter by 2022. The STFI has not submitted any memorandum to the Ministry in this regard.

(b) to (d) As per reports, there are about 3 lakh telecom towers in the country and most of them use diesel generator as a backup power source. These are estimated to be consuming about 1 billion liters of diesel in a year. Many tower companies and mobile service providers have used solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at telecom towers to reduce their dependence on diesel generators.

Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) by 2022 about 2000 MW capacity equivalent off-grid solar applications such as solar PV systems in telecom towers, rural power plants, solar pumps, solar lights etc. are to be supported.

200 MW capacity equivalent off-grid solar applications are to be supported in the first phase of the Mission, till 2012-13.

#### **Electrified villages under RVES**

3329. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria and the definition of an electrified village in the Remote Village Electrification Schemes;

(b) whether Government is planning to declare a village with all houses connected with electricity as an electrified village;

(c) whether Government has installed any such mechanism to check the levels of electrified villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (d) In accordance with approved definition of village electrification, remote villages will be deemed to be electrified if a minimum of 10% of the households are provided with electricity and electricity is also made available for community facilities and for Dalit Bastis of the village, if any. However, as per the National Rural Electrification Policy, 2006, villages using isolated lighting technologies like solar photovoltaic, may not be designated as electrified. Further, as per the laid down guidelines of Remote Village Electrification Programme, financial support is provided to State implementing agencies for coverage of upto 100% of the households in an eligible village. However, the actual level of coverage is decided by the State implementing agencies in consultation with the village panchayats.

#### **Targets and achievements of village electrification programme**

3330. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target set and achieved so far under village electrification programme