

Rural electrification target

†739. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that target for electrification of one lakh villages of the country and providing free electricity to families living below poverty line by 2010, has been set; and

(b) if so, the current status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) and (b) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) — a Scheme for rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification was launched in 2005. Against the sanctioned coverage of electrification of 1.18 lakh un/de-electrified villages and release of free electricity connections to 2.46 crore rural Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, the electrification works in 86,270 of un/de-electrified villages have been completed and free electricity connections to 1,31,82,992 eligible BPL households have been released under RGGVY as on 31.10.2010. The revised Bharat Nirman target is to electrify 1 lakh un/de-electrified villages and release of electricity connections to 1.75 crore BPL households by March, 2012. There is no provision in the scheme to provide free electricity to families living below poverty line.

Hydro power projects in NER

740. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North Eastern Region (NER) of the country has huge hydro power potential of 58,000 MW as per Government's report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps taken by Government to set up hydro power projects in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) and (b) Based on the re-assessment studies done by Central Electricity Authority in 1987, the hydro-electric potential in NER including Sikkim has been estimated as 62604 MW in respect of schemes with capacity of 25 MW and above. The State-wise detail is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The Government has adopted multi-pronged strategy to harness the hydro potential resources in the country including NER. Some of the Policy measures and initiatives taken by the Government are finalisation of investor-friendly National Hydro Policy, 2008, liberal National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 50,000 MW Hydroelectric Initiative and three stage clearance procedure for hydro-electric projects, etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.