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5.	Talaipalli	Mand-Raigarh	Chhattisgarh	Geological Report available. Mining plan approved. In-principle environment clearance available. Forest clearance under process. Land acquisition under process.
6.	Dulanga	IB Valley	Odisha	Geological Report available. Mining plan approved. In-principle environment clearance available. Forest clearance under process.

### **Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana**

4159. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), created to provide access to electricity to all rural households, has achieved the desired results;

(b) if so, the number of States/districts it has not covered yet;

(c) whether Government has been taking feedbacks from various State/district committees, reports on the implementation of the scheme;

(d) whether proper audits and surveys through different agencies are being undertaken to seek views from the beneficiaries of the scheme; and

(e) whether the scheme provides free electricity connection to only BPL families in rural areas and whether Government is planning to extend it to APL families also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL): (a) The Government of India launched 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) – Programme for creation of Rural Electricity Infrastructure & Household Electrification, in April, 2005 for providing access to

electricity to rural households. As on 30.04.2012, against the targetted coverage of 1.10 lakh un/de-electrified village and release of free electricity connections to 2.30 crore BPL households, electrification works in 1.05 lakh un/de-electrified villages have been completed and 1.95 crore free electricity connections to BPL households have been released under RGGVY.

(b) The States of Delhi, Goa and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadara & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Puducherry have not participated in RGGVY Programme as they had achieved 100% electrification of villages. In remaining 27 states, RGGVY Projects for 579 districts have been sanctioned.

(c) Ministry interacts with State Governments frequently and obtains their feedback while framing and implementing the scheme.

(d) Four (4) independent agencies namely M/s. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), M/s. Integrated Research for Action and Development (IRADe), M/s. Sambodhi & M/s. Tetrattech, have been engaged for conducting impact evaluation studies of RGGVY Programme in 20 States. While conducting these studies, the agencies are also required to interact with the beneficiaries, i.e. villagers and Panchayat representatives, to seek their views about implementation of the scheme. The evaluation report of 12 States, out of 20 States where the study has been taken up, have already been received. Major findings in the reports are as below:

- (i) Electrification of villages have result in socio-economic improvements and villagers are able to utilize electrical appliances for additional comfort convenience and education of their children.
- (ii) It has been reported that some economic activities like agarbatti making, bamboo items etc., have started specially in the States like West Bengal & Tripura, where electric supply is better.
- (iii) Villagers demand coverage of left out BPL households and habitations.
- (iv) There is demand for more number of distribution transformers to cater to higher Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) loads.
- (v) The villagers demanded increased hours of electric supply especially in the evening hours. They also required more quality and reliability of electric supply, i.e., reduction in unscheduled power cuts.

(e) Under RGGVY, electrification of un-electrified BPL households is provided free electricity service connection. Infrastructures created under RGGVY can be used for providing connections to APL by respective distribution utilities. APL households are required to pay for prescribed connection charges and no subsidy is available for this purpose.

### **National Electricity Fund**

4160. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to create a National Electricity Fund to give subsidized credit to the power sector in the country, including power distributing companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Fund would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the setting up of National Electricity Fund (Interest Subsidy Scheme) to provide interest subsidy aggregating to Rs. 8466 Crs to be given during the tenure of loan on loan disbursement amounting to Rs. 25,000Crs to the State Power Utilities-both in public and private sector, to improve the distribution network. The objective of the NEF scheme is to incentivize the investment in distribution sector to improve the infrastructure and to expedite the reform process in the sector. There will be two categories of States for working out the interest subsidy-"Special category and focused states", and States "other than special category and focused states". The amount of interest subsidy is linked to the progress achieved in reforms linked parameters. Based on the progress achieved on these parameters, the utilities will be eligible for subsidy in interest rates from 5% to 7% in "Special Category and focused States" and 3% to 5% in States "other than Special category and focused States". The main reform parameters are:

AT & C loss reduction, reduction in the ARR (Average Revenue Realized per unit) and ACS (Average Cost of Supply per unit) gap.

(c) The Guidelines for operationalization of the NEF Scheme is under finalization in Ministry of Power.