Poor electricity connectivity in rural housholds

604. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost 45 per cent of rural households have no electricity connection and those are connected do not get power supply;

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation;

(c) whether any targets have been fixed for supply of power in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (d) As Per Census 2011, 55.3% rural Households in the country are using electricity as main source of lighting, which implies that almost 45% rural households in the country have stated that they do not use electricity as the main source of lighting. Supply of power is under domain of State Government/State utility.

Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) was launched by Government of India in April 2005 for creating infrastructure in 1,12,225 un/de-electrified villages (UEV), 3,83,372 partially electrified villages (PEV) and release of free electricity connections to 2,76,11,469 Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country as per schemes sanctioned so far which stipulates electricity supply for a minimum of 6–8 hours. Cumulatively, as on 15.11.2013, the infrastructure has been created in 1,07,752 UE villages and 3,03,406 PE villages and free electricity connections to 2,13,57,370 BPL households have been released. The scheme has been continued in Twelfth and Thirteenth Plan for:

- Completing spillover works of projects sanctioned in Tenth and Eleventh Plan.
- Continuing the scheme for covering all remaining census villages and habitations with population of above 100.
- Providing free electricity connections to BPL households in villages and habitations with population of above 100.
- Extending DDG to Grid connected areas to supplement the availability of Power in areas where power supply is less than six hours a day.

As on 15.11.2013, 39 projects for creating infrastructure in 93 UE villages and 30,119 PE villages and providing free electricity connections to 8,59,082 have been sanctioned during Twelfth Plan.

Obstacles in functioning of Sasan UMPP

605. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH :
SHRI A.A. JINNAH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Western Regional Load Despatch Centre (WRLDC) is creating obstacles for the country's most competitive, UMPP Sasan Ultra Mega Power Project to operate its plant to ensure that the merchant power producers sell power at Rs. 6–9 per unit to these seven States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the WRLDC's behaviour is causing nearly more than Rs. 10 crore loss to the various State Governments, which have signed Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Sasan UMPP; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government on the Power Grid and other merchant power producing company officials for causing huge financial loss to the Government exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) The Sasan UMPP declared Commercial Operation Date (COD) of its Unit-3 from 0000 hrs. of 31st March, 2013 with a tested capacity of 101.38 MW based on a certificate issued by Independent Engineer (IE) and started declaring capacity of 620.4 MW against a tested capacity of 101.38 MW. The Western Regional Load Despatch Centre (WRLDC) filed a Petition in Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) on 25th April, 2013 in the matter of "declaration of COD and scheduling of Sasan UMPP". The CERC in another petition filed by Sasan Power Ltd. (SPL), ordered on 20th June, 2013 that declaration of CoD for 101.38 MW could not be sustained and that SPL should conduct another test at supercritical parameters. On 1st July, 2013, SPL filed an appeal before the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) for staying the CERC order dated 20th June, 2013. Hon'ble APTEL did not grant any stay on the CERC order dated 20th June, 2013 and appeal was disposed off on 17th July, 2013. Hon'ble APTEL gave its judgment on 12th August, 2013 and remanded the matter to the CERC to decide the issues afresh after