

(c) and (d) Few complaints of minor nature are received from different corners of the country. The complaints are promptly forwarded to the concerned implementing agencies by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the nodal agency for implementation of RGGVY, for taking appropriate action / corrective measures.

(e) and (f) The matter in the State of Jharkhand is under investigation. Enquiry in district Leh-Ladakh of State of Jammu and Kashmir was made but no substance found.

RGGVY in Assam

1387. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Garden in Assam are not covered under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidutikaran Yojana (RGGVY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government has taken steps to cover the Tea Garden population in Assam under rural electrification scheme RGGVY;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) Government of India launched 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidutikaran Yojana' – Programme for creation of Rural Electricity Infrastructure & Household Electrification, in April 2005, for providing access to electricity to rural households and free electricity service connections to BPL Households in the country. All the BPL households in different projects, including tea gardens of Assam, as proposed by the Implementing Agencies/ Government of Assam, have been sanctioned under RGGVY.

In the state of Assam, 24 projects covering electrification of 8,241 un-electrified villages, intensive electrification of 12,907 partially electrified villages and providing free electricity connections to 12,31,826 Below Poverty Line (BPL) households with total sanctioned project cost of Rs. 2851.29 Crore have been sanctioned so far under RGGVY. As on 30.11.2013, electrification in 8,069 un-electrified villages, intensive electrification in 12,518 partially electrified villages has been completed and free electricity connections to 10,41,589 BPL households have been released. An amount of Rs. 2413.48 Crore has been released by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for these projects.

The Government of India has approved continuation of RGGVY under Twelfth Five Year Plan, in which all remaining villages and habitations having population more than 100 including tea gardens are eligible to be covered for electrification.

Health of power transmission system in the country

1388. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inefficient transmission system is hampering the transfer of power from surplus areas to deficit areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to strengthen the National Power Grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The surplus power from the States can be transferred to a power deficit State through the Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) from the source of supply depending upon the Available Transfer Capacity (ATC) between the points of supply and point of drawal.

Generally, there is no constraint in inter-State transmission of power within the NEW Grid (comprising of Northern, Western, Eastern and North-Eastern Regions). However, at times, transmission capacity from NEW grid to Southern Regional (SR) grid is constrained due to limited capacity of the existing transmission system.

To strengthen the National Power Grid, Inter-regional links have been planned which would interconnect the five regional grids *i.e.* Northern Region (NR), Western Region (WR), Southern Region (SR), Eastern Region (ER) and North-Eastern Region (NER). Presently, the total transmission capacity of such inter-regional links is 31,850 MW (As on October, 2013) which would increase to 65,550 MW by the end of Twelfth Plan *i.e.* 2016-17.

Opening of medical college by NTPC at Sundergarh in Odisha

1389. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has decided to start a hospital and medical college at Sundargarh in Odisha;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the medical college could take admission of its first batch of students; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a mega power project of NTPC which was