

"Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau" (KfW), a Germany government owned development bank, agreed to provide a concessional loan of Euro 1 Billion, for augmenting and strengthening power transmission infrastructure for evacuation of renewable power besides providing technical assistance for forecasting, balancing, market design and network management in connection with grid integration of renewable power. In addition, both the countries through Joint Declaration established the "Indo-German Energy Forum" (IGEF) in April, 2006 to promote cooperation in energy security, energy efficiency, renewable energy, investment in energy projects and collaborative research and development.

#### **Remote village electrification programme**

2002. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the solution to the country's energy poverty could lie in decentralized solar, made possible by Remote Village Electrification Programme which offers the rural off-grid households as solar home lighting system;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the largely successful programme also faced some challenges like poor after-sale service and malfunctioning of batteries and CFLs;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to further increase the scope and scale of the programme while rectifying the past shortcomings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Electricity for basic use can be provided through renewable energy sources in un-electrified remote census villages, un-electrified hamlets of electrified census villages where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective under various programmes like Remote Village Electrification programme.

(b) Under the programme supplier has to maintain the quality and to provide after sale service, with operation and maintenance of complete system for 5 years.

(c) and (d) Ministry is not approving any new proposals under RYE programme as priority is being given to complete on-going projects first with available budget.

#### **Delegation of power to PRIs**

2003. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goa Government has delegated any legal, administrative and financial powers to village Panchayats, Municipalities, Municipal Cooperation of Zila Panchayats;