

census villages in the country, as on 01.04.2015. 8,134 villages were un-electrified as on 30.09.2016.

Fall in price of LED bulbs

1367. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS:

SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the purchase price of LED bulbs has been consistently falling over the last couple of years;

(b) what is the total number of dwelling units provided with LED bulbs under the UJALA scheme, as on date;

(c) whether Government is strictly following the International Energy Agency's global LED programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture company of 4 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under Ministry of Power, which is the nodal agency for implementation of UJALA programme, aggregates the demand across country and procure LED bulbs in large quantity. The aggregation of demand and bulk procurement has resulted in reduction of 88% in procurement prices of LED bulbs from ₹ 310/-(February 2014) to ₹ 38/-(August 2016) which is passed on to the consumers (Retail price of LED bulbs reduced from ₹ 550 to ₹ 65 during the same period).

(b) As on 20th November, 2016, 5.96 crore of dwelling units have been provided about 17.89 crore LED bulbs under the UJALA scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Free connections to every households

1368. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working on a scheme to extend financial support to States to offer new electricity connections to every household free of cost;

(b) if so, the number of households in the country proposed to be covered under the scheme, State-wise; and