

Off-grid electrification

2796. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been achieved in terms of off-grid electrification measures in rural India; and

(b) in what ways does Government aims to bridge the gap between electrified villages and provision of 24x7 electricity in all village households?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) is for electricity access to the un-electrified villages/habitations, where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective. So far, 4,220 projects have been sanctioned under DDG for electrification of remote areas, 893 projects have been commissioned as on 28.02.2017.

(b) Electricity is a concurrent subject. As such, supply of regular power in villages is the responsibility of the respective State Governments/Power Utilities. However, Government of India has taken up a joint initiative with all States/UTs for preparation of State specific documents for providing 24x7 power supply to all households/homes, industrial and commercial consumers and adequate supply of power to agricultural consumers as per State policy.

DDUGJY envisages various works for rural electrification including village electrification, strengthening and augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution network along with intensive electrification of partially electrified villages under Rural Electrification (RE) component of DDUGJY to bridge the gap between electrified villages and provision of 24x7 electrification.

Change in norms for electrified villages

2797. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country which are electrified;

(b) the rules which determine whether a village is to be classified as electrified;

(c) whether Government is aware that many of the houses in villages, classified as electrified, don't have access to electricity;

(d) whether Government plans to change the rules or norms regarding the classification of a village as electrified;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what steps are being taken to ensure that Government's goal for providing affordable electricity for all becomes a reality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As reported by the States, of the 5.97 lakh census villages, there were 18,452 un-electrified villages in the country. Out of these 12,364 villages have been electrified as on 28.02.2017.

(b) to (e) According to Rural Electrification Policy 2006, a village is reported as electrified, if

- (i) basic infrastructure such as Distribution Transformer and Distribution Lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the locality inhabited by weaker sections of the society/hamlet where it exists,
- (ii) electricity is provided to public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centres, Dispensaries, Community Centres etc., and
- (iii) the number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village.

A village is reported to be electrified by the States, if it fulfills the above mentioned norms. However, the level of infrastructure may vary in different habitations of the same village. Currently there is no proposal to change this norm.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) including its RE component goes to create infrastructure for providing access to electricity to all in rural areas. Service connection to BPL Households are provided free of cost. APL Households take connection on usual terms.

(f) Government of India has taken a joint initiative to provide 24x7 Power for All in collaboration with the States. All States and Union Territories except Uttar Pradesh have signed 24x7 Power for All document.

Government of India provides assistance to States through various schemes like, DDUGJY, Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), National Electricity Fund (NEF), Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY), Unnat Jyoti by affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) etc. for providing electricity for all.