

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1894
ANSWERED ON 19/12/2023

SOLAR STREET LIGHTS UNDER AJAY

1894. SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that less lights were installed against actual sanction in Phase-I and Phase-II of the Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY);
- (b) if so, the reasons for incomplete installation of targeted solar street lights in both the phases of AJAY;
- (c) whether Government proposes to launch Phase-III of AJAY;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the likely date of launch and target set thereunder; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b) The Phase-I of Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY) for installation of solar street lights (SSLs) with partial funding from MPLADS Fund was launched in September 2016 for implementation upto 31.03.2018. Till 31.3.2018, sanctions were issued by respective District Magistrates (DMs) for installation of around 1.45 lakh SSLs by utilising MPLADS Fund under AJAY Phase-I. Within the timelines allowed for installation of SSLs, a total of around 1.35 lakh SSLs could be installed.

The Phase-II of Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY) was launched in December 2018 for implementation within a period of one year, which was later extended till 31.3.2021. However, due to outbreak of COVID-19, the Government had suspended MPLADS Fund for two years i.e. for FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 and accordingly, the AJAY Phase-II, which was partially funded through MPLADS Fund, was discontinued w.e.f. 01.04.2020 for new sanctions.

Till 31.3.2020, sanctions were issued by respective DMs for installation of around 1.50 lakh solar street lights (SSLs) by utilising MPLAD Fund under AJAY Phase-II. Considering the COVID-19 restrictions and supply chain issues, the installation of sanctioned quantity of SSLs were first extended till 31.12.2021 and thereafter, finally extended till 30.6.2022. Within the extended period, around 1.37 lakh SSLs were reported installed under AJAY Phase-II.

The major reasons reported by EESL, the implementing agency for the scheme, for incomplete installations, include delay in confirmation of sites where the SSLs were to be installed, delay in release of funds from MPLADS Fund, etc.

(c) to (e) A proposal, including for providing solar street lights on the similar lines of AJAY, is under consideration of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
