

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.800
ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

SMART METERS UNDER RDSS

800 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of **POWER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that only 3.7 per cent of the 20.33 crore smart meters sanctioned under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) have been installed so far;
- (b) the reasons for the slow pace of installation, and whether timelines for achieving full implementation have been revised;
- (c) the steps being taken to expedite the installation of the remaining sanctioned smartmeters to meet RDSS objectives;
- (d) the measures to ensure the financial viability of DISCOMs and consumer affordability during the rollout of smart meters; and
- (e) whether Government has identified States lagging in implementation, if so, the specific interventions planned to address regional disparities?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a): Out of the total target of 20.33 crore Smart meters sanctioned under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), approximately 99.51 lakh (4.89%) Smart meters have been installed in the country. Ministry of Power is regularly monitoring the progress of installation of Smart meters by various Distribution Utilities and is taking action to resolve the implementation issues between the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Provider (AMISP) and the Distribution Utilities.

(b): The installation of Smart meters has been affected due to the following reasons:

- Smart meter being a new concept, there were delays in issue of tenders and establishment of direct debit facility.
- Collection and validation of data for Consumer Indexing.
- Delays in Testing and approvals like Field installation and integration test, Factory acceptance test and likewise.

.....2.

The installation of the Smart meters is to be completed by the end of the scheme period, i.e., 31.03.2026.

(c) : The following measures have been / are being taken to expedite installation of the sanctioned Smart meters:

- Regular follow up with the States and Distribution Utilities through coordination meetings, conferences, etc. on the progress of tendering, award and physical progress of the Smart meter works is being carried out by Ministry of Power.
- Advisories have been issued for Installation of check meters for up-to 5% of the Smart meters installed and mandatorily in case of complaints related to Smart meters.
- Smart meter advisories and Standard operating Procedures (SoPs) prioritizing installation of Smart meter in Government Establishments, Government colonies and Industrial and commercial category of consumers and other high load consumers. Based on successful demonstration in above category of consumers, Smart meter installation may be rolled out for other consumers. SoP also prescribes for regular consumer engagement exercise in respect of Smart meters and its benefits so as to build consumer confidence.

(d) : Smart Metering supports Distribution Utilities in improving their financial viability through benefits such as improvement in billing and collection efficiency, automatic energy accounting, improved load forecasting, optimized power purchase costs and renewable energy integration through net metering. Under RDSS, Smart Metering is being implemented through the AMISP in TOTEX (Total Expenditure) mode, wherein Distribution Utilities are not required to incur upfront capital expenditure and pay per-month-per-meter cost to the AMISP. It expected that as a result of improvement in billing and collection/ power purchase optimization etc., Distribution Utilities will be able to pay the per-month-per-meter cost thus making it self-financing without any additional burden on the consumers. The reduction in losses and improved power purchase optimization would help in reducing the cost of power.

(e) : The State-wise progress of Smart meters is attached at **Annexure**. The specific interventions taken to address the disparities in implementation have been mentioned at (c) above.
