

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1109
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2022

ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS UNDER SAUBHAGYA SCHEME

1109 SMT. MAUSAM NOOR:

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

- (a) the total number of households which have been provided electricity connections under the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) in West Bengal, district-wise in the previous quarter;
- (b) the bottlenecks faced and the measures proposed by Government in increasing the pace of implementation of SAUBHAGYA scheme in the rural areas of West Bengal; and
- (c) the time by which Government proposes to provide electricity connections to all rural households in West Bengal and also the projections for the upcoming quarter, July-September?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) to (c) : The Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – Saubhagya in October, 2017 with the objective of achieving universal household electrification by providing electricity connections to all willing un-electrified households in rural areas and all willing poor households in urban areas in the country. A total of 7,32,290 households were electrified in West Bengal since the launch of Saubhagya. The State of West Bengal has reported that 100% household electrification has been completed in the State. District-wise details of households electrified in the State of West Bengal are at **Annexure**.

The Steps that were taken by the Government to increase the pace of implementation of Saubhagya, including in West Bengal are as under:

- i. Launching of Saubhagya Strategy Formulation workshops in the States to give impetus to quick start the programme.
- ii. Establishing camps in villages/ cluster of villages wherein public representatives (MLAs, MPs, Gram Pradhan) helped create awareness amongst public at large.
- iii. Infrastructure Support- to the tune of Rs 14,270 Crore for electrification of households under Saubhagya and adequate funding provided to the States by Government of India.

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- iv. 24x7 communication through 'One nation One number' toll-free help lines and special campaign 'Saubhagya Rath' helped create awareness along with various media options viz. print media, radio, television, social media (Facebook, twitter etc.).
- v. Flexibility to States in mode of implementation (Departmental/ Turnkey/ Semi-turnkey).
- vi. A comprehensive Web portal '*saubhagya.gov.in*' was developed and DISCOMs were provided access to update the progress on the portal to enable day-to-day monitoring.
- vii. Coordination with Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) to ensure speedy supply of products and equipment.
- viii. Facilitated availability of adequate skilled manpower with requisite skill, through coordination with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) for effective training of the workforce.
- ix. More than 350 Engineers viz. Gram Vidyut Abhiyantas (GVAs) were deployed in the monitoring of projects under rural electrification schemes.
- x. Helicopters and support from the Indian Railways were instrumental in transporting essential goods to unexplored and in accessible geographies.
- xi. Monitoring & Reviews at all levels of the Government Centre States and Distribution utilities.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 1109 ANSWERED IN THE RAJYA SABHA ON 26.07.2022

District-wise details of households electrified in West Bengal under Saubhagya

District	Number of households electrified
Bankura	24415
Bardhaman	65767
Birbhum	36859
Cooch Behar	35043
Dakhshin Dinajpur	6828
Darjiling	10434
Hooghly	41692
Howrah	27827
Jalpaiguri	17130
Maldah	32871
Murshidabad	54433
Nadia	51631
North 24 Parganas	61078
Paschim Medinipur	21901
Purba Medinipur	33407
Purulia	52234
South 24 Parganas	144401
Uttar Dinajpur	14339
Total	7,32,290
