

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1440
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2023

ELECTRIC COOKING IN RURAL AREAS

1440 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether Government has drawn any plan to focus on encouraging electric cooking in rural areas;
- (b) whether the Ministry is taking any steps to involve both private and public sector to meet the challenge of expensive appliances for electric cooking;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (d) if not, whether the Ministry will give a serious thinking to it, keeping in view the short supply of LPG in future?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) to (d) : (I) Following actions are being taken by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a Statutory Body under the Ministry of Power through State Designated Agencies (SDAs) to promote electric cooking in rural areas:-

- (i) Demonstration projects
- (ii) Awareness creation under “Go electric” campaign through capacity building seminars/workshops, roadshows, electronic media etc.

(II) Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture company of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Ministry of Power is dedicated to make clean cooking solutions more affordable for end beneficiaries and promote their widespread adoption by employing the demand aggregation approach. EESL is preparing three distinct models to encourage the adoption of clean cooking solutions. The initial model involves introducing Induction Cook-Stoves in urban areas. In Tier-2 Cities and Semi-urban regions, the focus is on deploying Grid-connected Solar-based Induction Cook-Stoves. In rural areas, the plan is to introduce Solar-based Induction Cook-Stoves with battery storage.

(III) With an aim to reduce dependency on LPG and to create an environmentally sustainable cooking solution, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has developed 3 models of solar based cooktop, namely, “Surya Nutan” which can be of great utility in rural areas against the backdrop of increasing LPG adoption and ensuing domestic availability in Indian market. To cater to exigency of need, all models have been equipped with hybridization option so that grid electricity can also be used for charging and cooking thru Surya Nutan. IOC has empanelled 10 Indian vendors for manufacturing, marketing, installation & providing after sales service for commercial launch of the product.

(IV) Ministry of Power, through BEE, has also launched the voluntary Star Labelling programme for Induction Stove on 1st March 2023. The objective of this initiative is to encourage the adoption of Electric Cooking by promoting use of Energy Efficient Induction hob among the consumers.
