

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2394
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

ELECTRIFICATION OF HABITATIONS AND VILLAGES

2394 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) the number of habitations and villages in the country that are still not connected to the electricity grid, and the approximate population residing in these areas;
- (b) the manner in which power is being supplied to these unconnected areas, including any use of renewable energy or off-grid solutions;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to connect these habitations to the electricity grid, and the estimated timeline for completing these connections; and
- (d) whether there are any specific challenges faced in this regard, and the measures being implemented to address them, particularly in remote or difficult-to-reach regions?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) to (c): Government of India has supplemented the efforts of the States through schemes like Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) etc., to help them achieve the objective of providing quality and reliable power supply.

As reported by the States, all the inhabited un-electrified census villages in the country were electrified by 28th April, 2018. A total of 18,374 villages were electrified during DDUGJY out of which 2,762 villages were electrified through off grid mode. Under DDUGJY and thereafter under SAUBHAGYA, as reported by all States, electrification of all willing households was completed by 31st March, 2019. A total of 2.86 crore households were electrified during the SAUBHAGYA period out of which 4,16,469 households were electrified through off grid mode under the scheme. Both the schemes stand closed as on 31.03.2022.

Government of India is further supporting States for grid electrification of households left-out during SAUBHAGYA, under the ongoing scheme of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), launched in July, 2021. In addition, all identified households belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) under PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) and tribal households under DA-JGUA (Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan) are being sanctioned on-grid electricity connection under RDSS as per the scheme guidelines. Till date, works amounting to Rs. 4,281 Cr. have been sanctioned for electrification of 9,49,548 households including PVTG households identified under PM-JANMAN and tribal households identified under DA-JGUA. Further, under New Solar Power Scheme, works worth Rs. 49 Cr. have been sanctioned for 9,863 PVTG households for off-grid solar based electrification.

(d) : Government of India is taking all necessary steps to support States for electrification of all households. Since most of the left-out households are in remote, hilly and forest areas, hence the norms for electrification under RDSS have been relaxed and the ceiling limit for cost of electrification has been enhanced. Survey has been carried out by distribution utilities to identify un-electrified households. Grid based electrification works have been sanctioned under RDSS wherever found feasible as per the revised norms and for remaining areas off-grid solar based electrification works have been sanctioned under New Solar Power Scheme. Further, for the sanctioned works, regular monitoring is being done so as to resolve issues, if any, and expedite the implementation.
