

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3591
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023**

SMART METERS UNDER RDSS

3591. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) project in 2021 to ensure mass adoption of prepaid smart meters;**
- (b) if so, whether Kerala State is yet to complete the implementation of smart meters in the State;**
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the report that such smart meters are likely to be replaced after every five to eight years and would burden the consumers; and**
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide subsidies to consumers for bearing the expenses in this regard and if so, the details thereof?**

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b): Government of India has launched Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in July, 2021 with the objective of improving the quality and reliability of power supply to consumers through a financially sustainable and operationally efficient distribution Sector. Scheme aims to reduce the AT&C losses to pan-India levels of 12-15% and ACS-ARR gap to zero by 2024-25. The Scheme has an outlay of Rs. 3, 03,758 crore with an estimated gross budgetary support of Rs. 97,631 crore from the Government of India. The scheme envisages installation of 25 crore Prepaid Smart metering solution at consumer, Distribution Transformer (DT) and feeder level including integration of existing infrastructure. So far, 21 crore smart meters have been sanctioned to various States/ DISCOMs under RDSS.

The details of smart metering works sanctioned under RDSS for the State/ DISCOM of Kerala are as under:

Item	Number
Smart Consumer Meters	13,289,361
Communicable DT Meters	87,615
Communicable Feeder Meters	6,025

The DISCOM is in the process of tendering and award of the sanctioned works and the installation of smart meters in the State of Kerala is yet to commence.

Data gathered as part of the two-way communication in a smart metering solution will help utilities to improve their load forecasting, which will help them in optimizing their power procurement thereby reducing the cost of power supply. The direct impact of this feature will be on reducing the ACS-ARR gap and AT&C losses of the DISCOM which will ultimately benefit end consumer. Further, a smart meter captures consumer profile, consumption pattern and provides real-time information to consumers to plan their usage of electricity.

(c) & (d) : No such report is available regarding replacement of smart meters every five to eight years. However, roll-out of smart meters under RDSS is envisaged through PPP (Public Private Partnership) on TOTEX mode which makes this component self-financing and the DISCOM will not have to pay upfront for the capital expenditure on the same. The AMISP (Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Provider) will be responsible for supplying, maintaining and operating the metering infrastructure post installation. This approach provides end-to-end responsibility of AMISP for delivery of services during the entire life cycle of the project (7-10 years). Under TOTEX mode, it is expected that the DISCOM will be able to finance per month cost with the enhanced revenue as a result of improvement in billing and collection due to prepaid metering.

Further, under RDSS, financial assistance for Smart Metering works is being provided as below:

- I. Grant of Rs 900 or 15% of the cost per consumer meter (whichever is lower), for “Other than Special Category” States and a grant of Rs 1350 or 22.5% of the cost per consumer (whichever is lower) for “Special Category” States.
- II. Additional incentive of 7.5% of the cost per consumer meter or Rs. 450 (whichever is lower) for Other than Special Category States and 11.25% or Rs. 675 per consumer meter (whichever is lower) for “Special Category” States to incentivize the States/UTs to fast-track installation of prepaid Smart Meters by December 2023.
