

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1648
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.11.2019**

ELECTRICITY CONNECTION TO POOR HOUSEHOLD

**1648. ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:
SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:
SHRI B.B. PATIL:**

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has prepared any scheme with the State Governments to provide electricity connection to every poor household in the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the details of such connections provided so far, State/UT- wise;**
- (c) whether there is any plan to route subsidies in power sector through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the steps taken to streamline the subsidies in power sector; and**
- (e) whether a mechanism is needed to be put in place so that power from most efficient plants is utilized first to bring down electricity prices and if so, the guidelines issued in this regard?**

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana-Saubhagya in October, 2017 to achieve universal household electrification by providing last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all households in rural and all poor households in urban areas across the country. As informed by the States on Saubhagya portal, 2.628 crore households were electrified up to 31.03.2019 across the country, since launch of the scheme on 11.10.2017. State-wise detail is given at Annexure.

(c) & (d) : The subsidies to specified category of consumers are provided by the State Governments. The Electricity Act, 2003 provides in Section 65 that if the State Government proposes to grant subsidy to any class of consumers it shall make available funds for this in advance to the concerned distribution company. The State Governments have been advised that if they propose to give subsidies they should give it through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The tariff policy also mandates that direct subsidy is a better way to subsidize poorer consumer rather than cross subsidy (Clause 8.3 Tariff Policy 2016).

(e) : Merit order dispatch mechanism has been put in place in the country for procurement of required quantum of power by the DISCOMs at optimal cost. Under this mechanism, the power from most efficient plants with least variable cost are utilized first by the DISCOMs.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1648 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 28.11.2019.

State-wise electrification of households as per Saubhagya portal during the period from 11.10.2017 to 31.03.2019.

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Number of households electrified
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,81,930
2	Arunachal Pradesh	47,089
3	Assam	17,45,149
4	Bihar	32,59,041
5	Chhattisgarh	7,49,397
6	Gujarat	41,317
7	Haryana	54,681
8	Himachal Pradesh	12,891
9	Jammu & Kashmir	3,87,501
10	Jharkhand	15,30,708
11	Karnataka	3,56,974
12	Madhya Pradesh	19,84,264
13	Maharashtra	15,17,922
14	Manipur	1,02,748
15	Meghalaya	1,99,839
16	Mizoram	27,970
17	Nagaland	1,32,507
18	Odisha	24,52,444
19	Puducherry	912
20	Punjab	3,477
21	Rajasthan	18,62,736
22	Sikkim	14,900
23	Tamil Nadu	2,170
24	Telangana	5,15,084
25	Tripura	1,39,090
26	Uttar Pradesh	79,80,568
27	Uttarakhand	2,48,751
28	West Bengal	7,32,290
Total		2,62,84,350
