GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF POWER LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.826 ANSWERED ON 21.07.2022

FREE POWER TO BPL FAMILIES

826. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to give free power to BPL families who are living in houses provided under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in consultation with the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the other schemes being implemented by the Government to provide benefit to poor people in the country in terms of providing electricity at reasonable rates?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) to (c) : No Sir, providing power free of cost, or at subsidized rates to a consumer, including BPL families, is at the discretion and authority of the State Government concerned, subject to advance payment of subsidy amount, in the tariff determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, as per provisions of Electricity Act, 2003. Further, tariffs for various categories of consumers are determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) from time to time.

The cost of power includes amongst others the costs of the network infrastructure creation and augmentation. The Government of India supports the States financially for creation and augmentation of the Distribution Sector Infrastructure through various Schemes. This reduces the tariff burden on the consumers. After completion of the schemes, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) and Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), a new Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) has recently been launched by the Government of India which proposes to fund the State Owned DISCOMs for Infrastructure creation linked to initiation of reforms and achievement of results.

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