

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1664
ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024**

ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL AREAS OF MAHARASHTRA

1664. MS. PRANITI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to expedite the approval for commencement of work under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in Maharashtra, considering the difficulties faced by rural farmers due to outdated electrical infrastructure;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the expected timeline for the same and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government has a plan to address the safety concerns related to night electricity distribution for farming;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken/being taken to reduce the risk of incidents that endanger farmers lives and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) whether the Government is taking immediate measures to address the hazards posed by old electric conductors, especially in light of the recent tragic incident occurred in Gulvanchi village and if so, the details thereof?**

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) to (d) : Under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), projects worth Rs. 30,755 Cr. have been sanctioned for the loss reduction and smart metering works for Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL).

This includes agricultural feeder segregation works worth Rs. 7,010 Cr. for 4,712 mixed load feeders having agricultural load of more than 30%. It is expected that separation of agriculture and non-agriculture feeders will facilitate reliable three phase supply to non-agricultural consumers in the rural areas and support DISCOMs in providing day time supply of power to the farmers.

State of Maharashtra has reported that, considering night time safety concerns related to farming and to provide day-time power to agriculture consumers, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) / Mukhyamantri Saur Krishi Vahini Yojna (MSKVY) is being implemented with a plan to install decentralized solar power projects of 16,000 MW. To support this, system strengthening works for augmenting back-end infrastructure, worth Rs. 2,978 Cr., have been sanctioned under RDSS. Further, solar pumps are being installed instead of conventional pumps under 'Magel Tyala Saur Pump Program' of State of Maharashtra.

The sanctioned works under RDSS have been awarded and are under implementation.

(e) : State of Maharashtra has reported that in order to avoid the tragic incident that occurred in Gulvanchi village, old deteriorated Low Tension (LT) bare conductor lines have been identified and are being replaced with LT Aerial Bunched Cable. Also, the accident-prone areas are identified by MSEDCL and maintenance activities are carried out on priority.
