

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2251
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have made any assessment regarding use of electricity in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of rural areas electrified in States so far, States and Union Territory-wise; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to cover more rural areas of the country under rural electrification?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER(SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) & (b) : 5,07,216 villages have been reported to be electrified by the end of September, 2000 as against 5,87,258 inhabited villages in the country as per 1991 census. The details of villages electrified and pumpsets energized in the country by the end of September, 2000 in various States and UTs are given at Annex.

(c) : Rural Electrification is the responsibility of the State Electricity Boards/State Governments which own and operate the distribution system in the States. From the current financial year, the funds under Rural Electrification Programme (MNP) are being released directly to the States as part Normal Central Assistance instead of the earlier practice of routing through the REC. The other steps taken to improve the position of electrification in villages include funding of programmes of village electrification and pumpset energisation for REC with support from the Government of India. In addition, REC is financing investments in the areas of System Improvement and Small Generation. State Electricity Boards are being assisted by the REC to look at the entire rural distribution system in a designated geographical area in an integrated manner so as to identify the existing inadequacies and draw up a plan by their removal in a time bound manner by realigning and strengthening the LT distribution network and installation of energy meters, wherever required. The Government provides 100% grant to the State Governments/State Electricity Boards through REC for extending single point connection to the households of rural families below the poverty line under Kutir Jyoti Scheme. An amount of Rs.800/- for un-metered connections and Rs.1000/- for metered connections is provided under the scheme to meet one time cost of internal wiring and service connection charges. The Government have approved a scheme for extending 7.5% interest subsidy for electrification of 415 tribal villages and 2440 dalit bastis during the current year. The Government has also taken up a special programme called Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP), which has a component for strengthening of distribution and sub-transmission system. An allocation of Rs.1000 crore has made under the programme for the current year.