GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2772
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
IREP
RATNA SINGH

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP);

(b) the manner in which the programme is being implemented in the country;

(c) whether the expected results are being achieved from this programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether a study has been conducted by the Government regarding the progress of this programme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a): The main feature of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) is to provide optimum mix o energy sources for meeting energy needs for subsistence and productive purposes, through preparation and implementation of Block level integrated rural energy plans and projects.

(b): State Nodal Departments and Agencies are implementing the programme. It has two components:
(i) the Central Sector component includes support for developing capabilities in the States and Union Territories for preparing energy plans and projects and
(ii) the State Sector component includes funding for demonstration projects, financial incentives for various energy devices, extension and other related activities.

(c)&(d): State Governments are implementing the programme at present in 724 Blocksagainst the coverage of 860 Blocks sanctioned, with satisfactory achievements in some States. State-wise details of number of Blocks covered is given in Annexure-I.

(e)& (f): Yes, Sir. A project entitled `Analysis of IREP and Development of Capacity Building Strategy`, was taken up in twelve States in the year 1999-2000 with the support of United Nations Development Programme. A summary of the State-wise status of IREP mentioned in the project report is given at Annexure-II.
ANNEXURE-I

Annexure-I referred to in reply to parts(c) & (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2772 for reply on 15.03.2001 by Shrimati Rajkumari Ratna Singh regarding IREP.

State-wise number of Blocks covered under IREP

State/Union Territory	Number of Blocks covered
Andhra Pradesh	30
Arunachal Pradesh	10
Assam	19
Bihar	16
Goa	5
Gujarat	19
Haryana	30
Himachal Pradesh	45
Jammu & Kashmir	8
Karnataka	42
Kerala	28
Madhya Pradesh	85
Maharashtra	37
Manipur	19

Meghalaya	15
Mizoram	11
Nagaland	6
Orissa	45
Punjab	40
Rajasthan	18
Sikkim	4
Tamil Nadu	21
Tripura	6
Uttar Pradesh	115
West Bengal	30
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5
Chandigarh	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
Daman & Diu	1
Delhi	5
Lakshadeep	1
Pondicherry	6
Total	724

ANNEXURE-II

Annexure-IIreferred to in reply to parts (e)& (f) of Lok Sabha Unstarred QuestionNo. 2772 for reply on 15.03.2001 by Shrimati Rajkumari Ratna Singh regarding IREP

State-wise status of IREP indicated in the Project Report on `Analysis of IREP and Development of Capacity Building Strategy`.

1. Uttar Pradesh

IREP plans for 44 Blocks have been prepared.Survey of 90 Blocks has been done. It remains to be done in 25 Blocks. Energy consumption data has been compiled for 60 Blocks and it remains to be done in 55 Blocks. Evaluation studies have been carried out for seven Blocks by UP Development Systems Corporation Ltd. (UPDESCO), a State Undertaking. As a result of implementation o the IREP only 5.6% of the energy gap has been filled. At this rate there cannot be any prospect of making a dent on the energy gap in the rural areas.

2. Madhya Pradesh

The programme is being implemented in 85 Blocks. There is one State level Technical Back-up Unit located at the University of Indore. There is subsidy on solar and pressure cookers, kerosene stoves, lanterns, foot valves, compact fluorescent lights, gasifier pumps and energy plantation in addition to central subsidy on improved chulhas, solar photovoltaic lights and pumps and biogas plants. The State has been reluctant to recruit staff against posts sanctioned for IREP because there is no long-term assurance of funds for the staff.

3. Gujarat

Although there is a State level Cell, the Block Development Officer holds the additional charge ofIREP programme in the Block assisted by just one clerk. For this reason, the State has received much less central grant than its entitlement.

4. Himachal Pradesh

Himachal is one of the States where this programame is implemented seriously. Himurja was created for IREP but it looks after the entire renewable energy programme. There are 72 Development Blocks in the State and IREP has been extended to 45 of them. Accordingly there are 45 IREP Block level-Project CellsIn 16 IREP Blocks, the plans have been prepared. In other 4 Blocks, surveys have been completed and the report was under preparation. In the remaining 25 Blocks, the data were being collected or the survey work was being initiated. The State level Technical Back-up Unit is located in the Regional Engineering College, Hamirpur. Since the Central grant does not fully cover the expenditure on staff, a part of the State expenditure is spent on establishment also. The officials of Himurja working for the IREP are concentrating on hydrams and hydro-electricity.The IREP is not being planned and implemented in the manner in which it was originally conceived. Energy survey and preparation of energy plan for the IREP Blocks was done only during the initial years and was given up a few years ago. The main reason seems to be that the flow of funds was a small fraction of the funds required and so preparing a plan seemed irrevalent to the officials.

5. Andhra Pradesh

The IREP has been introduced in 30 Blocks in the State.The programme was initiated in the State with enthusiasm, but gradually and steadily it lost its momentum. The appointment of nodal agencies for programme such as biogas plants, resulted in the IREP not getting its share of the programme. The staff was much less than envisaged and the programme was suffering. The financial allocations were too small. The integration with the programmes of Rural Development was inadequate.

6. Haryana

Haryana is one of the States where awareness level is good. The guidelines are followed and the IREP plans are prepared.The efforts of various departments, like Agriculture, Women and Child, etc., are mobilised to contribute to the IREP.The District Rural Development Agency(DRDA) is also involved in the programme. The IREP Cell deals with policy issues, awareness generation, training, identifying beneficiaries, etc. There is an Advisory Committee for Inter -departmental Co-ordination at the State level.To encourage Panchayats to participate in IREP, awards are given for performance at the Block Level, District and State levels.

7. Rajasthan

The State Level IREP Cell is located in the Rajasthan Energy Development Agency. A District Level Committee under the chairmanship of the District Collector coordinates the activities of the various agencies involved. The State has decided to restructure IREP and restrict it to selected lesser number of Blocks. The State feels that the concept of IREP is not complete in itself.

8. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya

Several happy users of biogas plants were found in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya. IREP would do well to extend its programme to include preventive maintenance. Maharashtra has a successful programme of wind generators and so does Tamil Nadu. But these systems are not handled under IREP.

9. Delhi

IREPwas introduced in Alipur Block in 1983-84 and was later extended to all the five Blocks. The State Level Cell is located in the Delhi Energy Development Agency. Institutional financing agencies have not been involved in providing finance for this programme. A few voluntary organisations were involved in the programme. Staff recruited for the IREP was performing other duties. The amount provided for IREP was being used for miscellaneous works.