

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4445
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2000
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION
DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Villages in the country electrified during 1999 as against the target;
- (b) the names of the States which are lagging behind in the electrification of villages against the projection;
- (c) the reasons for not achieving the target by these States; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the projected target during the current plan period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) : The target for rural electrification works during 1999 has not been finalised by the Planning Commission. However, according to CEA during the year 1999-2000, 1578 villages upto February, 2000 have been electrified.

(b) & (c) : The State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are lagging behind to the national average of village electrification on the basis of the progress upto February, 2000. Many villages which have remained un-electrified are generally in remote and far-flung areas. Some of the major reasons for slow progress are financial constraints of State Electricity Boards, inadequate sub-distribution system facilities, disturbed conditions prevailing in some States, non-repayment of dues of Rural Electrification Corporation resulting in no cash flow, lack of demand from the consumers due to backwardness and poor economic conditions.

(d) : Priority areas for village electrification are decided and determined by the State Governments/State Electricity and other relevant inputs. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides loan assistance to the schemes sponsored by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) provided the schemes are technically feasible and financially viable.

Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has set a target of 7000 villages during the first three years of the Ninth Plan Period. Out of the targets set, REC has already achieved electrification of 6281 villages at the end of December, 1999.