

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:277
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2002
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Planning Commission's approach paper to the 10th Plan (2002-07) has given suggestions on rural electrification;
- (b) if so, whether it has been pointed out that it is necessary to prescribe a minimum number of rural households to be given power connections before a village is declared electrified;
- (c) if so, whether according to the report, around 80,000 villages in India are yet to get power connections and of these 18,000 are in remote areas;
- (d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Planning Commission for rural electrification; and
- (e) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 277 TO BE ANSWERED IN TI LOK SABHA ON 01.08.2002 REGARDING RURAL ELECTRIFICATION.

(a) : Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission in its Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) have suggested that while reforming the power sector, care must be taken to ensure that the needs of the rural areas are not neglected.

(b) & (c) : The above Approach Paper does not mention the minimum number of households to be electrified before a village is declared electrified. However, it is estimated that there are 80,000 villages in the country which are unelectrified. Of these, 18,000 villages are located in remote areas.

(d) & (e) : The Planning Commission have not finalized the 10th Plan documents so far. However, in the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 3rd March, 2001, Government had resolved to complete village electrification by the end of 10th Plan i.e. by the year 2007 and the coverage of all households by the year 2012. In order to accelerate the pace of village electrification in 2001-02, Government released an amount of Rs.412.236 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and an amount of Rs.175 crores under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). For 2002-03, the Planning Commission have made an allocation of Rs.2747 crores under PMGY for all the six components of PMGY, including rural electrification. The States have the flexibility to decide inter-se allocation among various components depending upon their priorities. Under the MNP an allocation of Rs.600 crores has been provided.