

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
POWER  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6374  
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2000  
ELECTRIFICATION IN VILLAGES  
KAILASHO DEVI;UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) the number of villages electrified during the Seventh/Eighth Plan periods;
- (b) whether there is appreciable decline in the Eighth Plan period;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to augment rural electrification during the current plan period?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

( SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA )

(a) : According to Central Electricity Authority(CEA) as per 1981 census the number of villages electrified during the Seventh/Eighth Plan periods are 100506 and 18504 respectively.

(b) & (c) : As compared to the Seventh Plan, there has been decline in the progress of village electrification during the Eighth Plan. Many of the villages remaining for electrification are in remote and inaccessible areas. State Electricity Boards find it un-economical to electrify these villages. In addition, paucity of concessional resources has also affected the village electrification programme.

(d) : Ministry of Finance has proposed to release funds for rural electrification directly to the States which were earlier being routed through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). Further, to give boost to electrification programme in tribal villages and dalit bastis and other weaker sections, Government of India has recently decided to grant interest subsidy of Rs.16.67 crores for electrification of 415 tribal villages and 2440 dalit bastis during the year 2000-2001. Government has also decided to set up a Group of Ministers (GOM) to review the existing schemes relating to electrification of tribal villages, dalit bastis and benefiting other weaker sections and suggest modifications for accelerating the pace of electrification so that they enjoy the benefit of electrification to the same extent as other areas/sections of the population.