

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:611
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2006
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of scheme prepared by Government for the implementation of rural electrification in the country on priority basis;
- (b) whether the rural electrification programme is being implemented at very slow pace particularly in bordering villages;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to expedite the programme in these bordering villages; and
- (d) the minimum norms prescribed for conferring electrification status to bordering villages?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) : A scheme `Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana` (RGGVY) of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification has been introduced in April 2005 with an objective of providing access to electricity to all households over a period of four years. Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy will be provided for : -

Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB)

Provision of 33/11 KV (or 66/11 KV) sub-stations of adequate capacity and lines in blocks where these do not exist.
Creation of Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI)

- Electrification of un-electrified villages
- Electrification of un-electrified habitations

- Provision of distribution transformers of appropriate capacity in electrified villages / habitation(s).

Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply Decentralized generation-cum-distribution from conventional sources for villages where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective provided it is not covered under the programme of Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources for providing electricity from non-conventional energy sources under their remote village electrification programme.

Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB), Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI) and Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) will also cater to the requirement of agriculture and other activities including

- irrigation pumpsets
- small and medium industries
- khadi and village industries
- cold chains
- healthcare
- education and IT

This would facilitate overall rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation.

The scheme inter-alia provides for financing of electrification of all un- electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme.

(b) : The RGGVY scheme has been conceived to accelerate the pace of Rural Electrification in the country to cover all the villages and households including bordering villages. In the year 2005-06 itself, 9819 villages have been electrified and it is targeted to cover 40,000 villages in 2006-07.

As the objective of the scheme is to electrify all un-electrified villages/hamlets and provide accessibility to electricity to all rural households in un-electrified and electrified villages in the entire country over a period of four years, it is expected that all villages, whether bordering or not, will be covered.

(c) : RGGVY integrates actions to be taken by Government of India, State Governments and the utilities so as to expedite the creation of electricity infrastructure in rural areas to meet the growing demand for electricity required for agriculture, rural industries, health, education and IT.

- As the existing implementing agencies i.e. State Electricity Boards / Utilities were finding it difficult to accelerate the pace of rural electrification, the services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), which have demonstrated their ability in timely project execution with effective project management, have been taken. CPSUs have, on the request of State Governments, taken 131 districts for rural electrification work under the scheme.

- Besides, under RGGVY, Detailed Project Reports(DPRs) are prepared district-wise for purpose of cohesiveness and better implementation of project and these projects have been taken on turn key basis for effective implementation of the project.

- States have been advised to set up District Committees to monitor the progress of rural electrification work.

- Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (REC), the nodal agency for the scheme, has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with CPSUs like National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation Limited (DVC) to make available their project management expertise and capabilities to states wishing to avail their services.

- For effective implementation of the project, REC has developed a framework covering guidelines for formulation of projects, bidding procedures for procurement of goods and services for projects to be executed on turn key basis, franchising under RGGVY; and also updation of existing REC's technical specifications for equipment/ material and construction standards for adoption in project implementation/ execution.

(d) : The minimum standards prescribed for declaring a village as electrified

(under revised definition of village electrification which is effective from 1st April 2004) are as under : -

(i) Basic infrastructure such as distribution transformer and distribution lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the dalit basti / hamlet where it exists. (For electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources a distribution transformer may not be necessary).

(ii) Electricity is provided to public places like schools, Panchayat offices, health centres, dispensaries, community centres etc. and

(iii) The number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village`.

It has also been decided that the Gram Panchayat has to certify whether the village is electrified as per the new definition.