

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7083
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2012
ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY
Shantha J.

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to universalize access to electricity in the country on a priority basis;
- (b) if so, the amount of electricity needed to meet the basic needs of rural households in the country under a universal access regime;
- (c) whether decentralized generation and distribution of electricity through renewable sources would help in ensuring the above access in a significant manner;
- (d) if so, the percentage share of electricity that could be potentially supplied through renewable energy sources in 2022 or 2032; and
- (e) the specific steps taken by Government and policies formulated to ensure that the above potential is fully utilized to ensure universal access to electricity?

Answer

MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH)

(a): The Government's efforts are directed to provide access to electricity to all its household/ citizens, with a judicious utilization of its resources and balance between competing demands.

(b): The Rural Electrification Policy 2006 aims at providing for minimum electricity consumption of 1 unit per household per day by the year 2012. The 17th Electric Power Survey Committee in its report (March 2007) has projected the All India forecast for the Rural Domestic Consumption for the year 2011-12 (Utilities only) as 89,742 M kWh (million units).

(c): Since the viability of decentralized generation and distribution of electricity through renewable energy sources is region and location specific, and depends on several factors, particularly the available renewable resources and the cost of other competing energy supply options, hence the potential of providing energy access through decentralized generation and distribution based on renewable energy sources is limited.

(d): The present grid-interactive power generation capacity from various renewable energy sources in the country is 25,017 MW as on 30.4.2012, which is contributing about 6% to the total electricity mix from all sources. Broad projections indicate that the renewable power installed capacity could potentially reach around 1,00,000 MW by 2022.

(e): The Government has taken various measures to promote decentralized generation and distribution of electricity as well as to augment grid-interactive power generation capacity through renewable sources of energy. These include:

Several schemes/ programmes, such as, Remote Village Electrification, Solar lighting, Biomass Gasifier, Micro-hydel, etc. for large-scale deployment and use of off-grid power systems.

Fiscal and financial incentives such as, capital/ interest subsidy/ generation based incentive, accelerated depreciation, concessional excise and customs duties;

Preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power in most potential States; Normative guidelines by CERC for fixation of such preferential tariffs being issued every year;

Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission to give a boost to deployment of solar energy systems, solar PV as well as solar thermal/achieve reduction in cost of solar power.

The total renewable power generation capacity on 31.3.2002 was 3,453 MW, which has increased to 24,915 MW by 31.3.2012. This apart, over 9,300 villages/ hamlets have been provided with renewable energy systems for meeting the lighting/ basic electricity needs; over 19 lakh solar lighting systems, 7698 solar pumps, and stand alone SPV power plants of aggregate capacity 18.23 MW have been deployed in the country.