

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:211

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013

HOME LIGHTING SYSTEMS IN RURAL AREAS

Thakor Shri Jagdish;Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing any programme for home lighting systems in the rural areas of the country and if so, the details thereof and the number of beneficiaries under this programme during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether any assessment/survey has been conducted on the implementation of the programme and if so, the details of the findings therefrom, State-wise;
- (c) whether the weaknesses in the implementation of the programme have been identified and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the measures taken on proposed to provide lighting in the rural areas at affordable cost at the earliest; and
- (e) the extent to which such programmes have helped in the conservation of the use of electricity and other fossil fuels?

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a),(b),(c),(d) &(e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 211 for answer on 23.08.2013 regarding Home Lighting Systems in Rural Areas

(a): The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been implementing Remote Village Electrification (RVE) programme and Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) programme to meet lighting needs of rural areas through renewable energy and to supplement efforts made under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) implemented by the Ministry of Power. Under the RVE programme of the Ministry, so far 10,611 villages have been electrified / illuminated with renewable energy based home lighting systems, of which 3568 villages have been completed during the last three years. Under the SPV programme, over 9.6 lakh solar home lighting systems and 9.39 lakh solar lanterns have been installed / distributed. Of these, 3.43 lakhs solar home lighting systems and 1.26 lakhs solar lanterns have been installed / distributed in the last three years. State-wise details are given at Annexure.

(b)&(c): Independent assessment / surveys have been carried out, time to time, for these programmes to assess effectiveness of the programme and functionality of systems. The suggestions received from these surveys and feedback of implementing agencies are used for improving various components of the schemes. Among the major weaknesses pointed out by these surveys include lack of system supplier's infrastructure for maintaining the systems, adequate maintenance training to users and effective feedback mechanism from the user to the equipment suppliers' to rectify the systems.

(d): The Ministry has taken necessary steps to address these issues and it is now mandatory for the system suppliers to create district-wise operation and maintenance infrastructure, provide 5 years maintenance warranty and have contact details of users for obtaining regular feedbacks.

(e): The solar home lighting systems have been extremely helpful in addressing the issue of providing lights to remote and rural areas. Most of these systems have been installed in un-electrified areas and are quality substitute of the prevailing lighting devices. It is estimated that a 10 Watt solar system is able to save about 20 liters of kerosene per year.