

THIRD REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
(2014-2015)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF POWER

*[Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained
in the Forty-First Report (15th Lok Sabha) on Implementation
of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana]*

Presented to Lok Sabha on 22.12.2014

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 22.12.2014



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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON ENERGY (2014-15)

*Dr. Kirit Somaiya – *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Om Birla
3. Shri M. Chandrakasi
4. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey
5. Shri Harish Chandra *alias* Harish Dwivedi
- #6. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
7. Shri Saumitra Khan
8. Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari
9. Kunwar Sarvesh Kumar
10. Dr. Arun Kumar
11. Shri R.P. Marutharajaa
12. Shri Jagdambika Pal
13. Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey
14. Shrimati Krishna Raj
15. Shri M.B. Rajesh
16. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
17. Shri Gutha Sukender Reddy
18. Shri Purno Agitok Sangma
19. Shri Devendra Singh *alias* Bhole Singh
20. Shri Malyadri Sriram
21. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

* Appointed as Chairman of the Committee *w.e.f.* 12th November, 2014 *vice* Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

Nominated as Member of the Committee *w.e.f.* 14th November, 2014.

Rajya Sabha

22. Shri V.P. Singh Badnore
- ^23. Shri Oscar Fernandes
24. Shri Ram Jethmalani
25. Shri Pyarimohan Mohapatra
26. Shri S. Muthukaruppan
27. Dr. K.P. Ramalingam
28. Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu
29. Dr. Anil Kumar Sahani
30. Shri Mohammad Shafi
31. Shrimati Viplove Thakur

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Devender Singh — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri N.K. Pandey — *Director*
3. Shri Arun K. Kaushik — *Additional Director*
4. Shri Manish Kumar — *Executive Assistant*

[^]Nominated as Member of the Committee w.e.f. 09.12.2014 vice Shri Rajiv Shukla.

INTRODUCTION

1, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Energy having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Third Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Forty-First Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Implementation of Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana' pertaining to the Ministry of Power.

2. The Forty-First Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 13th December, 2013. Replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 11th March, 2014.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 17th December, 2014.

4. The Committee place on record their appreciation for the valuable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

5. An analysis on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 41st Report of the Committee is given at Appendix-II.

6. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
19 December, 2014
28 Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Energy.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Energy deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-First Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana'.

2. The Forty-First Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 13th December, 2013 and was laid same day on the Table of Rajya Sabha. The Report contained 16 Observations/Recommendations.

3. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report have been received from the Government. These have been categorized as follows:—

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Serial Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16

Total-15
Chapter-II

- (ii) Observation/Recommendation which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

-Nil-

Total-00
Chapter-III

- (iii) Observation/Recommendation in respect of which the reply of the Government has not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:

Serial No. 1

Total-01
Chapter-IV

- (iv) Observation/Recommendation in respect of which the final reply of the Government is still awaited:

-Nil-

Total-00
Chapter-V

4. The Committee desire that Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I of the Report may be furnished to the Committee within three months of the presentation of this Report.

5. The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of their recommendations that require reiteration or merit comments.

A. Scope and Implementation of RGGVY

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 2.2)

6. The Committee *inter-alia* had noted that the motto of RGGVY was to provide access to electricity to all by 2009. The Committee had also noted that ideally the objective of the scheme is to provide electricity access to each and every household and village of the Country. However for the purpose of implementation of the programme villages having population more than 300 were considered for electrification under the programme in the 10th and the 11th Five Year Plans. Recently, the Government has decided to broaden the scope of the scheme and cover all census villages and habitations with population of above 100. The Committee had inferred that it amounts to non consideration of villages/hamlets having population of less than 100 under the scheme. The Committee had further noted that it has been envisaged that the RGGVY will run through 12th Plan (2012-17) and there is possibility of extending it to the 13th Plan also to complete left out works, if any. It is clear that even by 2017, villages having population less than 100 will not be considered for electrification under RGGVY scheme, and therefore, another extension of the programme will be required to achieve the actual goal of this programme *i.e.* electricity access to all households in the Country. The Committee being aware of the resource/fund constraints in achievement of the real objective of the scheme, nonetheless, had strongly recommended that the Government should come up with a blue print for the implementation of the scheme in letter and spirit so that electrification of all villages irrespective of the number of households and free connections to all BPL households can be provided.

7. The Ministry in their action taken reply has stated:—

“Government of India has approved continuation of RGGVY under 12th Five Year Plan to cover remaining villages/habitations having population more than 100 and to provide free electricity connection to BPL households in these villages.

As per the extant policy, villages and habitations having population of less than 100 are covered by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) under their Remote Villages Electrification (RVE) programme.

List of BPL households to be covered under the scheme is provided by the concerned State. Under 12th Plan, the State Level Standing Committee, headed by the Chief Secretary shall vet the district-wise list of villages, habitations and also BPL households to be covered under the scheme and recommend the project proposals formulated by the implementing agency.”

8. The Committee are not enthused with the reply that as per the extant policy, villages and habitations having population of less than 100 are covered by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) under their Remote Villages Electrification (RVE) programme. The Committee expect the Government to collect, collate and compile the requisite data having a bearing an electrification, of all households in the country to realize the objective of RGGVY. The Committee reiterate the need for electrification of all small villages/rural habitations so as to realize the goal of RGGVY, to electrify all villages and habitations and provide access to electricity to all households in 5 years. Unfortunately, even after elapse of more than 9 years, the Government focus seems to be fragmented and the Committee therefore recommend that wholistic and comprehensive blue print of rural electrification be prepared and submitted to the Committee within six months of the presentation of this report indicating rural electrification done during last three years and the number of left out villages which would be electrified during the next two years.

B. Electrification of Villages under RGGVY

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para No. 2.4)

9. The Committee have since long been raising the issue of installation of inadequate capacity transformers under RGGVY. So far, transformers having capacity of only 16 kV or 25 kV, depending on the size of village, have been installed under RGGVY which are highly inadequate considering the actual load of that village. Due to their inadequate capacity the transformers do not withstand the load and ultimately get burnt leading to blackout in the village. The Committee, considering the importance of the matter, have time and again recommended to increase the capacity of the transformers in

commensurate with the demand of the village. In their original Report the Committee was pleased to note that the Ministry in principle has accepted the suggestion of the Committee for increasing the capacity of transformers and agreed to install transformers having capacity of 63 kV and 100 kV, if required, during the 12th Plan Period. The Committee while welcoming the decision were of the view that it was a step in right direction as the decision to increase the load provided under RGGVY from 60W for BPL families to 250W and 500W from 250W for APL families had also made it obligatory to install the transformers of matching capacities. The Committee had recommended that the provision of installation of transformers of higher capacities should not be limited to the new projects under 12th Plan but ways and means should be found out to replace the earlier transformers installed in the 10th and 11th Five Year Plan projects.

10. The Ministry in their action taken reply has stated:—

“The requirement of installation of higher size transformers was mainly felt mainly in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and parts of Uttar Pradesh. REC has sought necessary information regarding replacement of transformers installed in 10th and 11th Plan from concerned States. Based on input received from Bihar, the Monitoring Committee on RGGVY has recently allowed the State of Bihar for installation of 63 KVA Distribution Transformers in place of 25 KVA transformers under 11 ongoing projects of 11th Plan.”

11. The Committee note with the satisfaction that the installation of 63 KVA Distribution Transformers in place of 25 KVA transformers under 11 ongoing projects of 11th Plan has been allowed in the State of Bihar. However, the reply of the Government is silent with regard to States of Jharkhand and U.P. which are the other States demanding the higher capacity transmissions. The similar demand may also come up from other States as well. The Committee would therefore like the statistics of the demands from the States and the action taken or proposed in each case state-wise with respect to installation of distribution transformers of higher capacity.

C. Supply of electricity to village covered under RGGVY

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 2.6)

12. The Committee had noted that RGGVY endeavours to provide access to electricity to all households. The scheme also envisages that no discrimination in hours of supply of electricity between rural and urban households shall be there. It is expected that the villages

electrified under RGGVY will be provided a minimum 6-8 hours of electricity daily. The Committee had further noted that the State Governments/DISCOMS have been assigned the job of providing electricity supply to the villages electrified under RGGVY. However, the Committee were of the view that though Central Government is not specifically responsible for supply of electricity under the scheme, nonetheless, the matter is so interrelated that it cannot escape from its responsibility of ensuring 6-8 hours supply of electricity in the villages electrified under the scheme as electrification infrastructure alone would be meaningless without the supply of electricity to these villages. The Committee were concerned with the findings of a survey, carried out in 20 States of the Country in the year 2011-12, where 42 out of 80 villages in Bihar and 15 out of 75 villages in Jharkhand were getting electricity supply for less than 6 hours. The Committee strongly believe that the real objective of RGGVY is to provide electricity and illuminate the households rather to just erect poles and install transformers. The Committee, therefore, had recommended that the Central Government should tie up with the States/DISCOMS at the time of sanctioning of DPR etc. to ensure the adequate or prescribed hours of electricity supply for the electrified villages. Further, the Committee had found that the adequacy of electricity supply to the villages covered under the scheme cannot be measured merely in number of hours as the same can be misleading. The timing of the electricity supply is equally important. The use of electricity for the households electrified under the scheme is mostly limited to illumination; therefore, the real need for electricity is felt during the evening time. However, it has been found that in most of the cases the electricity supply is not there in the evening but in the day time, making the whole exercise of the scheme irrelevant. The Committee, therefore, had also recommended the Government to take up the issue with the concerned States and discuss it at appropriate level to find an effective solution.

13. The Ministry in their action taken reply has stated:—

“To address the issue, a provision has been made that each State Government shall set up a State Level Standing Committee, headed by the Chief Secretary to recommend the project proposals formulated by the implementing agency. The State Committee, while considering project proposals for its recommendations, shall ensure availability of adequate power supply to cater to the load demand of project area including evening hours.

Further, under 12th Plan, provision of DDG has been extended to grid connected areas also to supplement the availability of power in areas where power supply is less than six hours a day.”

14. The Committee are pleased to note that a provision has been made to set up Standing Committee in each state, headed by the Chief Secretary of the State for more effective implementation of RGGVY. The Committee hope that the provision so made is rigorously implemented and has the potential to resolve most of the issues that arise due to lack of coordination/cooperation between Central and State Governments. The Committee therefore, desire the Union Government to play a proactive role so that all the State Governments form such Standing Committees at the earliest so as to resolve the issue of supply of electricity, its duration and timings in the villages.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 2.7)

15. The Committee had noted that requirement of power, taking into account the revised load of 250W and 500W for BPL and APL families respectively under RGGVY, for all rural households *i.e.* 16.78 crore (as per 2011 census) will be as high as 61,536 MW. The Committee were surprised that though the scheme objective is to provide electricity access to all the households of the Country and thousands of crore are being spent to erect infrastructure for the same, there is no talk about the production of the additional electricity required for the villages electrified under the scheme. The matter of arrangement of electricity for supply to these villages has been left solely to the State Governments/DISCOMS which are already facing acute power shortage and have been unable in arranging adequate electricity supply even for the existing users. Therefore, the, situation raises questions over the success of the programme. There is no justification for incurring huge sum on the infrastructure alone when it cannot be taken to its logical end *i.e.* supply of electricity to the households covered under the scheme. In this scenario the fund spent on RGGVY would be mere expenditure rather capital investment. Since the scheme is a flagship programme of the Central Government, assuming that work relating to electricity generation and supply rest solely on the States would be oversimplification of the issue. The Committee, therefore, had recommended that the Central Government for effective implementation of RGGVY should play a role of a flag bearer for guiding and providing assistance – physical and monetary – for augmentation of the generation capacity by the States which enables them to meet the additional demand of electricity created by the implementation of RGGVY. Simultaneously, the Committee desire that for the time being the Central Government shall also increase the allocation of electricity from the central pool to the financially weaker States to meet their demands for the purpose of implementing the scheme.

16. The Ministry in their action taken reply has stated:—

“The major initiatives undertaken to improve power situation in the country include de-licensing of generation, introduction of Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP), investors friendly New Hydro Policy, 2008, initiatives for augmentation of domestic manufacturing capacity of power plant equipment, adoption of super-critical technologies, liberalization of mega power policy, enhancing availability of skilled and trained manpower, etc.

The following measures have been taken/are being taken by the Government to improve power generation with a view to reduce the demand supply gap in the country:

- (i) Acceleration in generating capacity addition during 12th Plan with a proposed target of 88,537 MW (excluding 30,000 MW renewable) against an achievement of 54,964 MW during 11th Plan.
- (ii) Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of the on-going generation projects.
- (iii) Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each to reap benefits of economies of scale.
- (iv) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units.
- (v) Power Finance Corporation has sanctioned a cumulative loan amount of Rs. 3.15 lakh crore so far for generation component whereas Rural Electrification Corporation has sanctioned Rs. 2.06 lakh crore cumulatively so far for the same purpose.

In addition to the above, Central Government is also considering the allocation of electricity from the central pool to meet the demands of the States on case to case basis.”

17. The Committee note with satisfaction that the Government is considering the allocation of electricity from the central pool to meet the demands of the States on case to case basis. The Committee believe that it is a step in the right direction as the Central Government owe the responsibility of proper implementation of its flagship programme — RGGVY. Needless to say the allocation of more electricity from central pool to States, which are facing hardship in implementing the programme due to shortage of electricity, will give a significant boost to the implementation of the RGGVY. However

Committee would like to be apprised of the action as prepared by the State Governments for augmentation of their electricity generation capacity which will enable them to meet the additional demand of electricity needed for implementation of the RGGVY. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this behalf within six months of the presentation of this report.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 2.3)

The Committee note that as per latest definition, a village is considered to be electrified under RGGVY if 10% of the total number of households, apart from the basic infrastructure and, of certain public centers in the village has been electrified. Capacity of the infrastructure provided under the programme is being decided accordingly. In this scenario, it is possible that a village which has been electrified under the scheme may have households upto 90% which do not have electricity connections. The Ministry has stated that once a village is declared electrified, it is up to State DISCOMS to expand the distribution system to accommodate the rest of 90% of the households. However, in practice it is likely that the DISCOMS may fail to augment the capacity for various reasons leading to overloading of the system provided under the scheme or denial of electricity connections to 90% households of the village. The infrastructure being provided under the Scheme is highly inadequate therefore, unreliable and unsustainable. The Committee are of firm opinion that the provision of 10% of electrification of households is largely responsible for malfunctioning of the scheme leading to dissatisfaction among the people. Since, the Central Government alone cannot bear the burden of full electrification; therefore, the cooperation of the State Government/DISCOMS is imperative. However, at the same time, the Committee are also of the view that as this is the flagship programme of the Central Government, the onus of coordination with the other involved agencies lies on them, The Committee have observed that root cause of all the problems is unsatisfactory coordination between the Central and State Governments. The Committee, therefore, recommend that all out efforts should be made to ensure better coordination mechanism between them. The actual electrification requirement of the entire village should be assessed and it should be ensured that the State/DISCOMS fulfill their responsibility of providing electricity to the remaining households as and when required.

Reply of the Government

Though the definition of existing village electrification under RGGVY provides that a village will be considered as electrified if at least 10% households have been electrified, however; 10% is not the upper limit

to cover households in a village. The rural electricity infrastructure is created to provide access to all the households in covered villages/habitations considering a load of 250 Watts for BPL households, 500 Watts for APL households and load growth @5% for next 10 years. Further, 100% BPL households are provided electricity connection free of cost under the scheme and APL households are required to obtain electricity connections from the respective DISCOM/State Power Utility as per the procedure by paying applicable connection charges.

To ensure enhanced involvement of States, under 12th Plan, a provision has been made that each State Government shall set up a State Level Standing Committee, headed by the Chief Secretary and consisting of Secretaries of Energy, Rural Development, Finance, Panchayat Raj, Forest, Revenue and a representative of REC etc. The Committee shall vet the district-wise list of villages, habitations, BPL households to be covered under the scheme and recommend the project proposals formulated by the implementing agency. The State Committee, while considering project proposals for its recommendations, shall ensure adequacy of upstream network commensurating with the proposed distribution network and availability of adequate power supply to cater to the load demand of project area. The Committee shall also monitor progress, quality control and resolve issues relating to implementation of sanctioned projects viz. allocation of land for sub-stations, right of way, forest clearance, railway clearance, safety clearance etc.

To assess actual requirement of villages/habitations, it has been made mandatory in 12th Plan to prepare the DPRs by the State DISCOMS base on actual field survey.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para No. 2.4)

The Committee have since long been raising the issue of installation of inadequate capacity transformers. So far, transformers having capacity of only 16 kV or 25 kV, depending on the size of village, have been installed under RGGVY which are highly inadequate considering the actual load of that village. Due to their inadequate capacity the transformers do not withstand the load and ultimately get burnt leading to blackout in the village. Reportedly, there are cases where there is difference of opinion between REC and DISCOMS in regard to prompt repair or replacements of the malfunctioning transformers leading to delay of several months. This situation lead to decay and theft of the infrastructure provided under the scheme, defeating the very purpose

of the scheme. The Committee, considering the importance of the matter, have time and again recommended to increase the capacity of the transformers to commensurate the demand of the village. The Committee are pleased to note that the Ministry in principle, has accepted the suggestion of the Committee for increasing the capacity of transformers and agreed to install transformers having capacity of 63 kV and 100 kV, if required, during the 12th Plan period. The Committee while welcoming the decision are of the view that it is a step in right direction as the decision to increase the load provided under RGGVY from 60W for BPL families to 250 W and 500 W from 250 W for APL families has made it obligatory to install the transformers of matching capacities. The Committee also recommend that the provision of installation of transformers of higher capacities should not be limited to the new projects under 12th Plan but ways and means should be found out to replace the earlier transformers installed in the 10th and 11th Five Year Plan projects.

Reply of the Government

The requirement of installation of higher size transformers was mainly felt mainly in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and parts of Uttar Pradesh. REC has sought necessary information regarding replacement of transformers installed in 10th and 11th Plan from concerned States. Based on input received from Bihar, the Monitoring Committee on RGGVY has recently allowed the State of Bihar for installation of 63 KVA Distribution Transformers in place of 25 KVA transformers under 11 ongoing projects of 11th Plan.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para No. 2.5)

The Committee note that the pace of the implementation of RGGVY in the Naxal affected areas has been rather slow due to various reasons. The Ministry has enumerated various factors that are hindering the work under the RGGVY. The Committee understand the difficulties in the execution of work in such areas; nevertheless, feel that these areas should be given utmost priority in terms of early implementation of the scheme. The Committee are, of the view that implementation of the scheme would definitely bring positivity in these areas by improving the lives of the people. The Committee, therefore, recommend that as these areas are different and more difficult to execute the scheme than other areas of the country, the Government should make utmost efforts to find out the ways and means, to implement the programme at earliest through a tailor made plan.

Reply of the Government

To expedite implementation of RGGVY, State-wise task force comprising of senior officials of Ministry of Power, REC, State/DISCOMS and Implementing Agencies have been constituted for selected States including the above Naxal Affected States for monitoring and resolving the issues impeding the progress. The task force meets at least once in a month to review the progress and a monthly review of all task force is conducted by the Ministry of Power also.

In addition, REC has also deputed officers from Corporate Office to focused States *i.e.* Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and North-East States to closely monitor the progress of RGGVY in the field.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 2.6)

The Committee note that RGGVY endeavors to provide access to electricity to all households. The scheme also endeavours that no discrimination in hours of supply of electricity between rural and urban households shall be there, It is expected that the villages electrified, under RGGVY will be provided a minimum 6-8 hours of electricity daily. The Committee note that the State Governments/DISCOMS have been assigned the job of providing electricity supply to the villages electrified under RGGVY. However, the Committee feel that though Central Government is not specifically responsible for supply of electricity under the scheme, nonetheless, the “matter is so interrelated that it cannot escape from its responsibility of ensuring 6-8 hours supply of electricity in the villages electrified under the scheme as electrification infrastructure alone would be meaningless without the supply of electricity to the villages”. The Committee are concerned to find out that according to a survey carried out in 20 States of the Country in the year 2011-12, 42 out of 80 villages in Bihar and 15 out of 75 villages in Jharkhand were getting electricity supply for less than 6 hours. The Committee strongly believe that the real objective of RGGVY is to provide electricity and illuminate the households rather to just erect poles and install transformers. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Central Government should tie up with the States/ DISCOMS at the time of sanctioning of DPR etc. to ensure the adequate or prescribed hours of electricity supply for the electrified villages. Further, the Committee find that the adequacy of electricity supply to the villages covered under the scheme cannot be measured merely in number of hours as the same can be misleading. The timing of the electricity supply is equally important. The use of electricity for the households electrified under the scheme is mostly limited to illumination, therefore, the real need for electricity is felt during the evening time. However, it has been found that in most of the cases the electricity supply is not there in the evening but in the day time, making the whole exercise of the scheme irrelevant. The Committee,

therefore, also recommend that the Government should take up the issue with the concerned States and discuss it at appropriate level to find an effective solution.

Reply of the Government

To address the issue, a provision has been made that each State Government shall set up a State Level Standing Committee, headed by the Chief Secretary to recommend the project proposals formulated by the implementing agency. The State Committee, while considering project proposals for its recommendations, shall ensure availability of adequate power supply to cater to the load demand of project area including evening hours.

Further, under 12th Plan, provision of DDG has been extended to grid connected areas also to supplement the availability of power in areas where power supply is less than six hours a day.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 2.7)

The Committee further note that requirement of power considering the revised load of 250W and 500W for BPL and APL families respectively, for all rural households *i.e.* 16.78 crore (as per 2011 census) will be as high as 61,536 MW. The Committee are surprised that though scheme endeavour to provide electricity access to all the households of the Country and thousands of crore are being spent to erect infrastructure for the same, there is no talk about the production of the additional electricity required for the villages electrified under the scheme. The matter of arrangement of electricity for supply to these villages has been left Solely to the State Governments/DISCOMS which are already facing acute power shortage and have been unable in arranging adequate electricity supply even for the existing users. Therefore, the situation raises questions over the success of the programme. There is no justification for incurring huge sum on the infrastructure alone when it cannot be taken to its logical end *i.e.* supply of electricity to the households covered under the scheme. In this scenario the fund spent on RGGV will be mere expenditure rather capital investment. Since the scheme is a flagship programme of the Central Government, assuming that work relating to electricity generation and supply rest solely on the States will be oversimplification of the issue. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Central Government for effective implementation of RGGVY should play a role of a flag bearer for guiding and providing assistance – physical and monetary – for augmentation of the generation capacity by the States which enables them to meet the additional demand of electricity created by the implementation of RGGVY. Simultaneously, the Committee desire that for the time being the Central Government shall also increase the allocation of electricity from the central pool to the financially weaker States to meet their demands for the purpose of implementing the scheme.

Reply of the Government

The major initiatives undertaken to improve power situation in the country include de-licensing of generation, introduction of Ultra-Mega Power Projects (UMPP), investors friendly New Hydro Policy, 2008, initiatives for augmentation of domestic manufacturing capacity of power plant equipment, adoption of super-critical technologies, liberalization of mega power policy, enhancing availability of skilled and trained manpower, etc.

The following measures have been taken/are being taken by the Government to improve power generation with a view to reduce the demand supply gap in the country:

- (i) Acceleration in generating capacity addition during 12th Plan with a proposed target of 88,537 MW (excluding 30,000 MW renewable) against an achievement of 54,964 MW during 11th Plan.
- (ii) Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of the ongoing generation projects.
- (iii) Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each to reap benefits of economies of scale.
- (vi) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units.
- (vii) Power Finance Corporation has sanctioned a cumulative loan amount of Rs. 3.15 lakh crore so far for generation component whereas Rural Electrification Corporation has sanctioned Rs. 2.06 lakh crore cumulatively so far for the same purpose.

In addition to the above, Central Government is also considering the allocation of electricity from the central pool to meet the demands of the States on case to case basis.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para No. 2.8)

The Committee have observed many irregularities in regard to implementation of the Yojana viz. poor quality of work, inadequate capacity of transformers and infrastructure, no electricity connection to most of the households/nearby habitations despite being declared electrified under the scheme, incomplete/poor execution of work due to faulty DPR owing to poor field survey etc. The Ministry has apprised the Committee that to ensure qualitative execution of rural electrification work under RGGVY they have Three Tier. Quality Control Mechanism which has now been made more stringent under 12th Five Year Plan. The Committee, however, are concerned as despite these mechanisms in place, several issues are being reported necessitating the need for making them more stringent and effective. The Committee

feel that there are areas in planning and execution of the scheme as well as in identification and redressal of the same. The Committee, therefore, believe that there is genuine and urgent need to strengthen the quality control mechanism through extensive ground survey. The Committee trust that the steps taken by the Ministry in regard to making quality control mechanism in the 12th Plan to address the problem to some extent and address the existing loopholes in monitoring mechanism. Needless, to emphasize that the Government would bring need based more changes in the mechanism assessing the outcome of the new quality control mechanism put in place for the 12th Plan to enhance its efficacy and effectiveness.

Reply of the Government

To address the issues it is made mandatory in 12th Plan to prepare the DPRs by the State DISCOMs based on actual field survey.

Further, the Quality Control Mechanism (QCM) have been made more stringent at Tier-II by increasing the sample size of villages to 20% and BPL households to 100% in all inspected villages covered under 11th Plan projects as detailed below:

Inspection Scope for 11th Plan Projects

Particulars	Agency	Scope for inspection				
Tier-I	Implementing Agencies have engaged third party inspection agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of villages covered • 100% BPL Connections in 10% of the villages inspected and Minimum 5 BPL connections in remaining inspected villages • 100% of new sub-stations and 50% of augmented sub-stations 				
Tier-II	REC has engaged independent inspection agencies	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Old</th> <th>Revised</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% of villages covered • 100% BPL in 25% of the inspected villages and minimum 5 connections in the remaining inspected villages • Inspection of 25% new sub-stations. </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% of villages covered • 100% BPL connections in all inspected villages • Inspection of 100% new sub-stations and also augmented sub-stations • Verification of energisation status of electrified villages. </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Old	Revised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% of villages covered • 100% BPL in 25% of the inspected villages and minimum 5 connections in the remaining inspected villages • Inspection of 25% new sub-stations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% of villages covered • 100% BPL connections in all inspected villages • Inspection of 100% new sub-stations and also augmented sub-stations • Verification of energisation status of electrified villages.
Old	Revised					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% of villages covered • 100% BPL in 25% of the inspected villages and minimum 5 connections in the remaining inspected villages • Inspection of 25% new sub-stations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% of villages covered • 100% BPL connections in all inspected villages • Inspection of 100% new sub-stations and also augmented sub-stations • Verification of energisation status of electrified villages. 					
Tier-III	MoP through REC has engaged independent agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1% of villages covered • 100% BPL connections in 50% of the villages inspected and minimum 5 BPL connections in remaining inspected villages • At least one new sub-stations and one augmented sub-station 				

Scope of inspection for 12th Plan Projects is as detailed below:

Quality Control Mechanism	Tier-I	Tier-II	Tier-III
Responsible Agency	Third Party Inspecting Agency (TPIA)	REC Quality Monitor (RQM)	National Quality Monitor (NQM)
Village Inspection	50% villages	20% villages	1% villages
Material inspection	10% of all important materials of REDB (14) and VEI (11) [A sample of material can be picked from site for testing]	At least one type of all important materials of REDB (14) and VEI (11) [A sample of material can be picked from site for testing]	Review of test records
Sub-station inspection	100% of all New and Augmented	100% of all New and Augmented	At least one new sub-station and one augmentation of sub-station
BPL Connections	100% BPL Connections in all inspected villages	100% BPL Connections in all inspected villages	100% BPL Connections in all inspected villages

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 2.9)

The Committee note that there are District Committees/District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (DVMCs), which have been set up in all the States to monitor the progress of rural development schemes. Henceforth, these Committees would also monitor the progress of RGGVY works. The Member of the Parliaments have also been made part of these Committees. The Committee would keenly watch the working of these Committees w.r.t. expediting completing RGGVY works.

Reply of the Government

The feedback provided by these Committees (District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee/District Committees) would be considered appropriately from time to time.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9, Para No. 2.10)

The Committee during their on-the-spot study tour visited Nimgaon Vadi village in Maharashtra to see work done under RGGVY. During the visit, the Committee felt that it would be better if any marking on the electric poles/infrastructure provided under the scheme to distinguish it from regular electrification infrastructure. Also there is need to put helpline numbers and name of concerned officials in local language for the benefit of the common man. It would be helpful in easy identification for the purpose of survey/repairing/replacement purpose. The Committee would await follow up action in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Provisions have been made under Standard Bidding Document for 12th Plan to identify the assets created under RGGVY through appropriate sign boards at Distribution Sub-stations (Distribution Transformers) & Power Sub-stations and identification of all support structures like Single Pole (SP), Double Pole (DP), DTRSS (Distribution Transformer Substation Structures) etc. through unique identification code. REC has been advised to issue necessary instructions to the Implementing Agencies/State Power Utilities in reference to the recommendation of Committee regarding providing helpline nos. etc.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10, Para No. 2.11)

The Committee also strongly recommend that the Government should promote the use of LED bulbs under RGGVY by providing it to all the beneficiaries of the scheme at subsidized rates. Due to long life and low consumption of electricity, LED bulbs will be beneficial to end users. The Committee believe that use of only LED bulbs under the scheme has the potential to save several hundred Mega Watt of electricity in comparison to conventional incandescent bulbs.

Reply of the Government

Under 12th Plan projects of RGGVY, LED bulbs would be provided to BPL households instead of CFL bulbs

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para No. 2.12)

The Committee note that the Ministry have identified 5-6 Focus States wherein the progress of RGGVY has been slow. The Committee

have been informed that the Ministry has constituted a task force consisting of an officer of the Ministry of Power, a State Government Officer and an officer from the implementing agency. The Task Force will meet every month to review the execution of the work sanctioned in the 11th Plan and to plan and review the work under the scheme in the 12th Plan. The Committee would like to be apprised conclusive action taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Regular Meetings of Task Force are being regularly held to monitor the progress of RGGVY. Further, monthly review of all task force members is also taken by the Ministry of Power.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12, Para No. 2.13)

The Committee note that requirement of the fund for the implementation of RGGVY has been assessed on the basis of Rs. 6.50 lakh per village. Further the cost for providing free electricity connection per BPL household under the scheme has initially been calculated to Rs. 1,500. Subsequently, it was revised to Rs. 2,200 and now in the 12th Plan it is Rs. 3,000. The Committee find the standard cost per village and per household inadequate as the actual cost if assessed may be higher. Due to low fixation of standard cost the quantity and the quality of work under RGGVY is being forced to be compromised leading to curtailed and shoddy implementation of the scheme. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to revisit the standard cost provided under the scheme with a view to increase and making it reasonable. The revision of cost also becomes necessary due to the decision to enhance the electricity load being provided under the scheme. The Committee also find that the projects under RGGVY are not being prepared on the basis of actual field survey, due to which they suffers from inaccuracies leading to frequent cost revision. This often lead to delay in completion of the projects. The Committee, therefore, also recommend to prepare projects and calculate cost on the basis of actual field Survey. Simultaneously, the Committee also desire that the field survey should be prepared by actually visiting and doing extensive survey of the area only rather on the basis of the available or received reports/data/information.

Reply of the Government

The benchmark costs have been revised regularly as per details indicated below:

Electrification of un-electrified village	10th Plan (Rs. Lakhs)	11th Plan (Rs. Lakhs)	12th Plan (Rs. Lakhs)
(a) In normal terrain	6.5	13	19
(b) In hilly areas		18	22.5
Intensive electrification of already electrified villages			
(a) In normal terrain	1	4	8
(b) In hilly areas		6	10.5

Further, all DPRs under 12th Plan are being prepared by the implementing agencies of the States based on actual field survey.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 13, Para No. 2.14)

The Committee note that against the approved outlay of Rs. 3,544 crore and Rs. 2,492 crore for the year. 2011-12 and 2012-13 only Rs. 2,237 crore and Rs. 698 crore respectively was utilized. Also, for the year 2013-14, against the outlay of Rs. 4,500 crore only Rs. 1,914 crore (as on 30.09.2013) have been spent. The Committee believe that at the beginning of the programme there may be possibility of saving of funds due to inaccuracies in various assessments. As the scheme progresses and matures, the things get clearer with regard to its cost and other requirements. The Committee are surprised to find that as the scheme is maturing, instead of efficient utilization of allocated fund, there have been unspent funds from year 2011-12. The Committee believe that failure in utilization of the fund under the scheme is not justified and is cause for concern as the scheme is yet to achieve its objective fully *i.e.* to provide electricity access to all households of the Country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that utmost efforts should be made to ensure full utilization of the allocated funds for RGGVY henceforth.

Reply of the Government

During 2013-14, against the Revised Estimate (RE) of Rs. 3200 crore allocated for RGGVY, an amount of Rs. 2801.17 crore has been

already released by Ministry of Power as on 15.02.2014 and it is expected that the entire budget of Rs. 3200 crore would be utilized by 31st March 2014.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 14, Para No. 2.15)

The Committee note that the scheme of RGGVY has been extended to the 12th Five Year Plan as not only the remaining work of the 11th Plan is to be completed but additional work generated through revision of guidelines which *inter-alia* provides for bringing down population criteria from 300 to 100 and upgradation of load for BPL and APL households. For this purpose, a corpus of Rs. 35,447 crore has been allocated. The first two years of the 12th Plan are about to complete. The expenditure pattern under the scheme for these years is disappointing. Out of the allocated fund of Rs. 2492 crore for the first year of the 12th Plan, only Rs. 698 crore could be spent. Similarly, for the year 2013-14 *i.e.* second year of the Plan, out of Rs. 4500 crore, only Rs. 1900 crore could be spent till 30.09.2013. If this trend of expenditure continues the writing can be seen on the wall regarding targets achievements. Since, it is not a newly conceived scheme so as to justify lesser expenditure as the scheme may take some time to settle. This is very unhappy situation and for this precise reason it has been extended even to the 13th Plan *i.e.* up to year 2022. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that a very serious appraisal needs to be done for the reasons as to why the financial and physical targets of the scheme in the 12th Plan are not coming as expected and effective remedial measure are needed for avoiding this kind of non-performance in remaining year of the Plan.

Reply of the Government

Most of the projects sanctioned under 10th and 11th Plan are in final stage of completion and continuation of scheme in 12th Plan has been approved by CCEA in mid of 2013-14 and new projects are now being sanctioned for implementation. After the CCEA approval, 273 projects worth Rs. 23594 crore have been sanctioned. Release of funds against these projects would commence as soon as the implementing agencies are ready for award of projects.

Keeping in view the difficulties/bottlenecks experienced during 10th and 11th Plan the following remedial measures have been incorporated for 12th Plan of RGGVY.

- DPRs based on actual field survey and no cost revisions on account of quantity variation to be considered.

- State-level Standing Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary to monitor and resolve implementation issues/ bottlenecks.
- Dedicated project management structure for each project. Payment of agency charges linked with the deployment of such dedicated project management unit.
- Load for BPL and APL household enhanced to 250 Watt and 500 Watt respectively for determination of transformation capacity.
- Condition of deployment of franchisees relaxed. However, States should mention the alternative arrangement that would be adopted by them to ensure maintenance of the assets created and revenue sustainability at the Discom level.
- Charges for BPL connections have been enhanced to Rs. 3000/- from Rs. 2200/- with LED bulb.
- Monitoring system have been made more stringent.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 15, Para No. 2.16)

The Committee note that initial target at the inception of RGGVY was to electrify 1,25,000 villages, intensive electrification of 4.62 lakh partially electrified villages and providing free electricity connection to 2.34 crore BPL households in 5 years *i.e.* by the year 2009. However, the targets could not be achieved within the stipulated time and the scheme has to be extended with a revised target to cover 4,96,450 Un-electrified villages (UEV)/Partially electrified villages (PEV) and to provide free connections to 2.76 crore BPL households. Against this backdrop the achievement under the scheme so far (as on 15.09.2013) is coverage of 4,08,835. UEV/PEV and free electricity connection to 2.12 lakh BPL households. The scrutiny of the Committee has also revealed that except for the year 2009-10 and 2010-11, the scheme has miserably failed to achieve the yearly targets. Furthermore, the Committee are pained to note that yearly targets in the first two years of the 12th Plan which were lower than previous years have been missed by big margins. The Committee are anguished to note that despite funds being no constraint for the scheme, the annual targets have more than often been missed. Also, as the Ministry has provision to complete the left out work of the 12th Plan & the 13th Plan, it not certain that the even existing targets would be achieved at the terminal year of the 12th Plan *i.e.* 2017. The Committee, therefore, recommend

that every effort should be made to achieve, the yearly as well as overall targets, as the sooner than later the scheme will have to consider the remaining households/villages that have yet not been covered under the scheme due to restriction of minimum population of 100.

Reply of the Government

Under RGGVY, 648 projects have been sanctioned during 10th & 11th Plan covering electrification of about 1.12 lakh un/de-electrified villages, intensive electrification of 3.82 lakh partially electrified villages and release of free electricity service connections to 2.76 crore BPL households in the country. Cumulatively, as on 15.02.2014, the electrification works in 1,08,121 un/de-electrified villages, intensive electrification of 3,05,926 partially electrified villages have been completed and free electricity connections to 2.15 crore BPL households have been released in the country under the scheme.

179 projects have been sanctioned under RGGVY during 12th Plan (As on 15.02.2014) covering 10574 un-electrified villages, 161367 partially electrified villages and to provide free electricity connections to 1.11 crore BPL households. The electrification works are yet to be commenced in these projects.

The progress of scheme is regularly being monitored and reviewed by the Ministry of Power and the nodal agency (Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) with all stakeholders *i.e.* State Government, State Power Utilities, Implementing Agencies etc.

- (a) Government of India has set up an Inter-Ministerial Monitoring Committee headed by Secretary (Power), Government of India, which periodically meets to review the progress of implementation, resolve the issues impeding the progress, issue necessary directions for effective implementation and sanction of projects.
- (b) Review of progress by the Ministry of Power in Focused States at central level and also at Regional level.
- (c) Review of progress by the Ministry of Power at State level with Chief Secretary and Secretary (Power/Energy) of the State.
- (d) Review of progress by the Ministry of Power with Central Power Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) involved in implementation of RGGVY.

- (e) Field visits by the officials of Ministry of Power.
- (f) Monitoring and review of progress by the nodal agency.
 - At Central level with all the implementing agencies.
 - At State level with State Government and concerned implementing agencies.
 - Field visits by the officials of Project Offices located in various States and Corporate Office of REC.

In addition to above, following steps have been taken for effective monitoring of RGGVY:

- (i) On the request of Hon'ble Minister of Power, Ministry of Rural Development expanded the scope of District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee (VMC) to include "Review of RGGVY" as one of the agenda items and issued directives to all States in this regard.
- (ii) State-wise task force in identified States have been constituted with representative from Ministry of Power, REC, Project Implementing Agency, CPSUs (if involved) & State Government. The task force meet at least once in a month either at State Headquarter or field offices of the State to resolve major issues impeding progress. The task force, in addition to expediting the balance works of 10th/11th Plan, also monitors progress of preparation of DPRs, issue of NITs & award of contracts etc. in order to ensure speedy implementation of 12th Plan projects.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 16, Para No. 2.17)

The Committee note that the Government has decided to continue RGGVY with an outlay of Rs. 35447 crore consisting of Rs. 22,396 crore for the 12th Plan and about Rs. 13,000 crore for the 13th Plan. The Committee have been informed that all remaining un-electrified villages, partially electrified villages and habitations (with population more than 100) are to be considered under the 12th Plan of RGGVY. Left over BPL households, in these villages and habitations which could not be covered earlier shall be eligible to be considered for electrification under the 12th Plan. The Committee, however, have been given to understand that due to resource crunch, the villages having population less than 100 will not be considered even in the 12th Plan. As per the

target of the Ministry for the 12th Plan period; a total of 2.53 lakh villages/habitations and 2.73 crore BPL households are to be covered under the scheme. The Committee have been informed that they have taken several steps to address the issue that has been affecting the pace of implementation of the programme. Further, the monitoring and auditing of the scheme has been strengthened. However, the achievement for the two years of the 12th Plan so far, has failed to vindicate the claims of the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to come up with a definite plan to ensure the speedy implementation of the programme. As the programme has been continuing since long, the Ministry should learn from the mistakes of the past and refrain from repeating the same in the 12th Plan. The Committee, would like to be apprised of the perceptible improvements done and target achieved under the scheme.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Power conducted evaluation of RGGVY scheme engaging 4 independent agencies involving 1000 villages in 150 districts of 20 RGGVY States and suggested measures for improvement of the scheme. Keeping in view the difficulties/bottlenecks experienced during 10th and 11th Plan the following remedial measures have been incorporated for 12th Plan of RGGVY:

- DPRs based on actual field survey and no cost revisions on account of quantity variation to be considered.
- State-level Standing Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary to monitor and resolve implementation issues/ bottlenecks.
- Dedicated project management structure for each project. Payment of agency charges linked with the deployment of such dedicated project management unit.
- Load for BPL and APL household enhanced to 250 Watt and 500 Watt respectively for determination of transformation capacity.
- Condition of deployment of franchisees relaxed. However, States should mention the alternative arrangement that would be adopted by them to ensure maintenance of the assets created and revenue sustainability at the Discom level.
- Charges for BPL connections have been enhanced to Rs. 3000/- from Rs. 2200/-with LED bulb.
- Monitoring system have been made more stringent.

Under 12th Plan RGGVY, 179 projects have been sanctioned under RGGVY during 12th Plan (As on 15.02.2014) covering 10574 un-electrified villages, 161367 partially electrified villages and to provide free electricity connections to 1.11 crore BPL households. The electrification works are yet to be commenced in these projects.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

CHAPTER III

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT
DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

—Nil—

CHAPTER IV

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 2.2.)

The Committee note that the motto of RGGVY was to provide access to electricity to all by 2009. The Committee also note that ideally the objective of the scheme is to provide electricity access to each and every household and village of the Country. However for the purpose of implementation of the programme villages having population more than 300 were considered for electrification under the programme in the 10th and the 11th Five Year Plans. Recently, the Government has decided to broaden the scope of the scheme and cover all census villages and habitations with population of above 100. It amounts to non consideration of villages/hamlets having population of less than 100. It has been envisaged that the programme will run through 12th Plan (2012-17) and there is possibility of extending it to the 13th Plan to complete left out works, if any. It is clear that even by 2017, villages having population less than 100 will not be considered for electrification under RGGVY scheme, and therefore, another extension of the programme will be required to achieve the actual goal of this programme *i.e.* electricity access to all households in the Country. Furthermore, the Committee in regard to providing free electricity connections to BPL households, note that at the initial stage of the programme, the provision to providing free connection was limited to only 10% of the BPL households in the 10th Plan. This restriction was however removed for 11th and 12th Plan Projects. The Ministry has now, however, decided to cap the number of households limits indicated by the Ministry of Rural Development. The Committee are aware of the resource/fund constraints in achievement of the real objective of the scheme, nonetheless, it strongly recommend that the Government should come up with a blue print for the implementation of the scheme in letter and spirit so that electrification of all villages irrespective of the number of households and free connections to all BPL households can be provided. For this the Government should first identify the total number of BPL households and villages/habitations irrespective of the number of households as early as possible so that the exact task of providing electricity access to all and the resultant resources and

funds required can be assessed, otherwise the programme will not achieve its real objectives. The Committee also recommend that it should also be ensured that no genuine BPL family should be deprived of the free electricity connections under the scheme on account of discrepancies, if any, in BPL lists of the States and the Ministry of Rural Development.

Reply of the Government

Government of India has approved continuation of RGGVY under 12th Five Year Plan to cover remaining villages/habitations having population more than 100 and to provide free electricity connection to BPL households in these villages.

As per the extant policy, villages and habitations having population of less than 100 are covered by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) under their Remote Villages Electrification (RVE) programme.

List of BPL households to be covered under the scheme is provided by the concerned State. Under 12th Plan, the State Level Standing Committee, headed by-the Chief Secretary shall vet the district-wise list of villages, habitations and also BPL households to be covered under the scheme and recommend the project proposals formulated by the implementing agency.

[Ministry of Power, O.M. No. 44/8/2013-Vol. 8, Dated: 11.03.2014]

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATION/OBSERVATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE FINAL
REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL AWAITED

—NIL—

NEW DELHI;
19 December, 2014
28 Agrahayana, 1936 (*Saka*)

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Energy.

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY (2014-15) HELD ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2014 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'C', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1700 hrs.

PRESENT

Dr. Kirit Somaiya – *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Om Birla
3. Shri M. Chandrakasi
4. Shri Harish Chandra *alias* Harish Dwivedi
5. Shri Saumitra Khan
6. Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari
7. Kunwar Sarvesh Kumar
8. Shri R.P. Marutharajaa
9. Shri Jagdambika Pal
10. Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey
11. Shrimati Krishna Raj
12. Shri M.B. Rajesh
13. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
14. Shri Devendra Singh *alias* Bhole Singh
15. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

Rajya Sabha

16. Shri V.P. Singh Badnore
17. Shri Oscar Fernandes
18. Shri S. Muthukaruppan
19. Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu
20. Dr. Anil Kumar Sahani
21. Shri Mohammad Shafi

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri N.K. Pandey — *Director*
2. Shri Arun K. Kaushik — *Additional Director*
3. Smt. L.N. Haokip — *Under Secretary*

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and briefly apprised them of the agenda for the sitting. The Committee then took up for consideration the following draft Reports:—

- (i) 1st Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Power for the year 2014-15.
- (ii) 2nd Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the year 2014-15.
- (iii) 3rd Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 41st Report (15th Lok Sabha) on Implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.

3. After discussing the contents of the Reports in detail, the Committee adopted the aforementioned draft Reports without any change. The Committee also authorized the Chairman to finalise the above-mentioned Reports and present the same to both the Houses of Parliament in the current Session.

4. ** ** ** ** ** **
5. ** ** ** ** ** **
6. ** ** ** ** ** **

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

(Vide Introduction of Report)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FORTY-FIRST REPORT (15th LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

(i) Total number of Recommendations	16
(ii) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:	
Sl. Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16	
Total:	15
Percentage	93.75%
(iii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:	
Nil	
Total:	0
Percentage	0%
(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:	
Sl. No. 1	
Total:	01
Percentage	6.25%
(v) Observation/Recommendation in respect of which final reply of the Government is still awaited:	
Nil	
Total:	0
Percentage	0%