

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:248
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014
SOLAR ENERGY IN VILLAGES
Singh Shri Giriraj

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

- (a) the details of schemes under implementation for providing electricity in villages /hamlets through solar energy projects;
- (b) the number of villages/hamlets covered under these schemes and the funds allocated for the purpose, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government provide subsidy for setting up solar energy projects in electrified/unelectrified areas and villages in the country, if so, the quantum of subsidy granted and the criteria and norms laid down for the purpose; and
- (d) the time by which all the unelectrified villages/hamlets are likely to be electrified through solar energy projects?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER, COAL & NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a), (b), (c) & (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 248 for answer on 24.07.2014 regarding Solar Energy in Villages.

(a): Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is implementing Remote Village Electrification (RVE) Programme for providing financial support for lighting/basic energy using renewable energy sources including solar energy in those remote unelectrified census villages and unelectrified hamlets of electrified census villages where grid extension is not found feasible by the State Governments and hence are not covered under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY). The programme is implemented in States by State Nodal Agencies.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is also implementing Off-grid and decentralized solar applications scheme of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission for installation of solar PV systems and power plants in various parts of the country including power deficit areas/ unelectrified areas.

Ministry of Power is implementing Decentralised Distributed Generation (DDG) scheme under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) for electrification of villages where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective. In XII Plan, DDG has also been extended to the grid connected area where supply of electricity is less than 6 hours a day. Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) can be from conventional or renewable sources including solar energy.

(b): The state-wise details of number of villages and hamlets covered and the funds released under the RVE programme is given in Annexure I.

The state wise details of DDG projects and funds sanctioned are given in Annexure II.

(c): Yes, Madam. The Government provides subsidy for setting up solar energy projects in electrified/unelectrified areas and villages in the country.

Both under the DDG scheme of Ministry of Power and RVE programme of MNRE, the Government provides subsidy of 90% of the project cost. Under the DDG scheme, the balance 10% can be arranged by the Implementing Agency at their own or arranged from any financial institutions /Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), whereas for RVE projects the balance 10% cost of projects for remote village electrification is financed through contribution from the state governments and beneficiaries, etc. However, it is necessary that at least half of the balance cost is met from state government's funding.

The RVE projects are taken up only in remote unelectrified census villages and unelectrified hamlets of electrified census villages where grid extension is not found feasible by the State Governments and hence are not covered under the RGGVY. The quantum of subsidy granted is given in Annexure I.

The norms followed for solar photovoltaic (SPV) based DDG projects are that the average household load should not be more than 100 watt, population of the villages/hamlet should be more than 100 and cost norms of MNRE benchmark to be followed. The quantum

of subsidy sanctioned is given in Annexure II.

Under the Off-grid and decentralized solar applications scheme of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy provides 30% capital subsidy for installation of solar PV systems and power plants in various parts of the country including power deficit areas/unelectrified areas. (90% capital subsidy for Government organizations of special category States). The quantum of subsidy granted is given in Annexure III.

(d) There is no such time limit set by the Government by which all the unelectrified villages /hamlets are likely to be electrified through solar energy projects.