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Title : Need to increase the target for off-grid solar power for rural applications under the National Solar Mission.

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (PASCHIM CHAMPARAN): More than 40 crore rural people in the country are without access to electricity. Decentralized generation of power from solar sources is cost effective and reliable option. But, the target of off grid generation under National Solar Mission Phase-I has been kept as only 200 MW against the target of 1000 MW for grid connected power which mainly goes to urban areas. Furthermore, only 30% capital subsidy is given to off-grid solar power. This is far less than the grid-connected solar power. As a result, poor tribals and villagers end up paying more for electricity as compared to urban consumers.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to increase the target for off-grid to at least 500 MW and increase the capital subsidy to off-grid solar applications to at least 50% to remove the bias against rural people in the National Solar Mission.