

Villages Electrified in Andhra Pradesh

3926. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of villages electrified in Andhra Pradesh and the number of Harijan villages electrified in the State so far;

(b) whether Government have given any concession for grant of electric connection to Harijan houses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) There are in all 27,221 inhabited villages as per 1971 census in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Out of these, 19,970 villages

have been electrified as on 31-12-1982 which constitute 73.4 per cent of the total villages. The number of villages where street lighting has been extended to localities inhabited by Harijan and other backward communities is 15,344 as on 30.6.1982.

(b) and (c). Rural Electrification Schemes are formulated and implemented by the State Electricity Boards and Rural Electric Cooperatives and by the respective Electricity Departments of the State Governments, where there are no Electricity Board. The Rural Electrification Corporation provides financial assistance for Harijan Basti Electrification Schemes on concessional terms and conditions compared to other schemes. Some State Electricity Boards provide concessions for grant of electric connections to the Harijan houses and available details of the same are annexed.

Statement

1. Andhra Pradesh: There is no scheme in Andhra Pradesh to provide free electricity to Harijan Houses. No concessions in tariff are also provided to Harijan Houses. However, in the Houses built by Government of Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of Scheduled castes families, the internal wiring is done by Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board free of cost in a phased manner and a 40 watt bulb fitted free in each House. Necessary lines to these houses from the main lines are also laid and supply given. This facility has been extended to 30,526 Houses so far. The monthly consumption charges are collected as per tariff.
2. Assam: There is no such scheme in Assam at present in operation. Only such scheme is under consideration.
3. Bihar: There is no scheme to provide free electricity to Harijan Houses in Bihar. However, some concessions are given to electricity Harijan Houses like no realisation of security deposit providing service connection free of cost, monthly energy consumption to be realised at flat rate basis at the rate of Rs. 3/- (including Electricity Duty) per point of 40 W per month upto a maximum of two points per service connection, and wiring inside houses upto two points is to be provided at Board's cost. Number of beneficiaries under this is not readily available. However, 5705 Harijan Bastis have been electrified till 31st March, 1982.
4. Gujarat: There is no scheme introduced by the Gujarat State Electricity Board to provide free electricity to Harijan Houses or to give any concessions.
5. Haryana: There is no scheme to provide free electricity to Harijan Houses or to give any concession in the energy charges in Haryana. To help the weaker sections of society a scheme has been started for giving single point connection in Harijan dwellings. As per this scheme, the State Electricity Board, on deposit of Rs. 50/-, provides one light point and one plug point in the Harijan dwelling along with the meter and connection. Out of Rs. 50/-, Rs. 15/- is charged as the security for meter and Rs. 35/- as the actual charges for providing the wiring and board for single light point and plug point on no profit no loss basis. The normal meter security in Haryana is Rs. 30/- for domestic connection. Thus the concession of Rs. 15/- is given to Harijans for meter security charges.

About 32860 such single point domestic connections have been given to Harijan dwellings upto May, 1982.

6. Himachal Pradesh : . . . There is no scheme to provide free electricity to Harijan Houses but some concessions are being given. For the electrification of Harijan Houses Himachal Pradesh Government is giving subsidy and against this subsidy 2268 and 5147 Harijan Houses had been electrified during 1980-81 and 1981-82 respectively.
7. Karnataka : . . . There is no proposal to provide free electricity to Harijan Houses.
8. Kerala : . . . There is no proposal to give free electricity to Harijan Houses.
9. Madhya Pradesh : . . . There is no scheme to provide free electricity to Harijan Houses. However, there is a scheme by which a single light point unmetered connection is given by the Board to Scheduled Caste and Tribe persons living in rural areas. The Harijan or tribal single light point consumer is not required to pay in advance any service connection and security deposit amount. Further during first 12 months of not availing supply such consumers are required to pay Rs. 1.65 per month towards providing internal wiring for single light point connection. In addition such consumers are required to pay a fixed nominal amount of Rs. 1.35 per month towards energy consumption excluding electricity duty amounting to 26 paise per month as per present tariff. About 25075 such connections have been given to Harijans till May, 1982.
10. Maharashtra : . . . There is no scheme for free electricity to the Harijan Houses. Scheduled Castes and Navbudhas are exempted from payment of service connection charges for power supply to their domestic connections. About 1,58,231 such connections have been released upto the end of March, 1982.
11. Meghalaya : . . . There is no scheme for free electricity to the Harijan Houses nor to give any concessions.
12. Orissa : . . . There is no scheme for free electricity to Harijan Houses.
13. Punjab : . . . There is no scheme in Punjab State Electricity Board to provide free electricity to Harijan Houses. However, some concessions are being given like security deposit at half the existing rates and meters security only Rs. 2/- instead of Rs. 20/-. Further Harijans are exempted from the payment of service connection charges and can opt to pay rentals instead of service connection charges. Domestic connections to Members of Scheduled Castes are released on priority. There are 1,46,336 Harijan Houses to whom electricity connections have been released.
14. Rajasthan : . . . There is no proposal to provide free electricity to the Harijan Houses.
15. Tamil Nadu : . . . There is a scheme for all weaker sections of society, from July, 1979 to give power connection to huts in rural areas at a flat rate tariff of Rs. 2.50 per month per lamp of 40 W. For the purpose of this scheme a hut is a living place with mud walls and thatched roof and areas not exceeding 200 sq. ft. Upto July, 1982, more than 4.57 lakhs of huts have been electrified under this scheme.
16. Uttar Pradesh : . . . There is no scheme to provide free electricity to Harijan Houses. A scheme known as Janata Service connection Scheme under existence since 1976 to provide electricity at concessional rate to Harijans landless labourers and farmers whose holding is one acre or less. Under 'Janata Service Connection Scheme' 28009 connections have been provided upto March, 1982.