

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.790  
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025**

**RURAL HOUSEHOLDS COVERED UNDER SMART METER NATIONAL PROGRAMME**

**790. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:**

**Will the Minister of POWER  
be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of rural and urban households currently covered under the Smart Meter National Programme along with the targets for the financial year 2025–26;**
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken any recent assessments of grid reliability in rural areas and non-metro urban centres especially in districts with high household electrification coverage and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government is collaborating with State DISCOMs (Distribution Companies) to strengthen last-mile digital infrastructure and promote consumer awareness for smart metering adoption and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken in this regard; and**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to initiate capacity-building programmes for panchayat-level staff and local distribution operators to manage new metering systems effectively and if so, the details thereof?**

**A N S W E R**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER**

**(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)**

**(a) : Government of India launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in July 2021 to improve the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of distribution utilities so as to provide quality and reliable supply of power. One of the key initiatives under the scheme is consumer smart Metering. Under the RDSS, 20.33 crore smart meters have been sanctioned in 28 States/ UTs, across both rural and urban areas, out of which 2.41 crore smart meters have been installed as on 15.07.2025. The balance meters are targeted to be installed by the end of the scheme period.**

**(b) : As per Rule (10) of the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020, the distribution licensee shall supply 24x7 power to all consumers. However, the Commission may specify lower hours of supply for some categories of consumers like agriculture. The Rules are applicable for all States and for all areas including rural and non-metro urban areas.**

**Further, Government of India has supplemented the efforts of the States through schemes like Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) and Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), to help them achieve the objective of providing quality and reliable supply of power.**

**Accordingly, with the concerted efforts of Central and State Government, the average hours of supply in rural areas has increased from 12.5 hours in FY 14 to 22.6 hours in FY 25 and in urban areas the same has increased from 22.1 hours in FY 14 to 23.4 hours in FY 25.**

**(c) : RDSS aims to improve the efficiency and financial health of power distribution utilities by leveraging digital infrastructure which includes:**

- i. Implementation of SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition)/ DMS (Distribution Management System) for selected towns.**
- ii. Smart meters, as part of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), provide real-time consumption data, helping consumers manage their usage and enabling utilities to detect and curb electricity theft.**
- iii. Works have been sanctioned for modernization and strengthening and upgrading distribution infrastructure, including substations, transmission lines, and underground cabling.**

**Ministry has strategically implemented various measures and has issued Standard Operating Procedures for smart meter implementation which include steps like phased implementation of smart meters, incentivising consumers for installation of prepaid smart meters, installation of check meters, effective consumer engagement plan by AMISPs/ distribution utilities etc. to promote consumer awareness for smart metering adoption. At present, the acceptability of smart meters by consumers has increased.**

**(d) : Under RDSS, training and capacity building of DISCOM personnel is being undertaken on a regular basis which includes modules on Smart Metering. Till now, 9226 no. of utility employees (covering linemen, technicians and non-technical staff) have been imparted training related to new metering works.**

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