

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:828
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2004
DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR LANTERN
Ranjan Smt. Ranjeet

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of solar lanterns distributed in Bihar to the persons living below poverty line during the last three years;
- (b) whether the programme of distributing the solar lanterns has since been discontinued;
- (c) if so, the facts and reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the government is now formulating a new scheme in order to provide the same without hassles; and
- (e) if so, the modalities thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR)

(a) (b) & (c): Till the financial year 2001-02, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources was implementing a programme all over the country including Bihar for the supply of solar lanterns at subsidized costs. However, the subsidy on solar lanterns was withdrawn from the financial year 2002-03 to avoid possible misuse of the scheme and to enable development of a free market for solar lanterns. The number of solar lanterns distributed in Bihar under the programme during the last three years are given below:

Year	Number of Solar Lanterns Distributed	
2001-02	2500	
2002-03	5500	Spill over from the previous years allocations
2003-04	Nil	

The scheme was open to all categories of users. No statistics for number of systems distributed to the persons living below poverty line is available.

(d) & (e) : Yes, Madam. The modalities are being worked out.