

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2625

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2009

REMOTE VILLAGE ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote use of solar energy in the country, especially in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of villages including the remote and tribal villages in the country identified for providing solar energy under the Remote Village electrification Programme during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) the targets set for electrification of such villages for the year 2009-10 and the number out of these covered under the programme till date, State-wise; and
- (e) the time by which all unelectrified villages in the country are likely to be electrified?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH)

(a)&(b): The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy is implementing the Remote Village Electrification Programme for financial support to projects for lighting/basic electricity through renewable energy including solar energy, in those remote unelectrified census villages and unelectrified hamlets of electrified census villages in rural areas where grid extension is either not feasible or not cost effective and which are not taken up under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana for electrification through conventional energy. However, villages covered through solar energy devices are not deemed to be electrified. Central Financial Assistance of upto 90% of the project costs, subject to pre-specified maximum amounts for each renewable energy system, is provided for approved projects. In addition the Ministry also promotes use of solar energy devices in project mode in rural areas through subsidies ranging from Rs.125/- per peak Watt for power packs to Rs.17300/- for streetlights. The amounts of these subsidies are dependent upon the area of the project, the category of the beneficiary, the type of the device, etc.

(c)&(d): State-wise targets are not set under the Remote Village Electrification Programme and the projects are sanctioned on case to case basis after proposals are submitted by the state implementing agencies. The state-wise number of villages and hamlets taken up under the Remote Village Electrification Programme during the last three years and the current year are given in the annexed table. A target of covering 1500 villages and hamlets has been set for the current year.

(e): The work in all sanctioned projects under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana initiated by Ministry of Power for electrification of unelectrified villages is likely to be completed by the end of the 11th Plan.