

Rajya Sabha

The Government is encouraging promotion of biomass based off-grid small power projects for meeting unmet demand of electricity in electrified / un-electrified villages in the country under various programmes viz Village Energy Security Programme (VESP), Remote Village Electrification Programme (RVEP) and Biomass Gasifier programme.

Biomass based systems / devices are encouraged for meeting inter-alia electricity needs under VESP. The RVEP aims to provide basic facilities of lighting / electricity in those remote, un-electrified census villages and remote un-electrified hamlets of electrified census villages, where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective, through various renewable energy sources, including biomass. Under RVEP, support has been provided for electrification of 47 villages / hamlets using biomass gasifier systems in the country including 10 villages / hamlets in Orissa. A total of 78 test projects have been taken up under VESP for implementation in 11 states including 12 test projects in Orissa.

So far, 608 small hydro power projects (upto 25 MW station capacity) with an aggregate capacity of 2015 MW have been set up in the country. The annual estimated generation from these projects is 4028 million units per year. A target of adding 1400 MW from small hydro power has been planned during the 11th Five Year Plan.

This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Sources, Sh Vilas Muttemwar in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha today.