

MODEL PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON MINI-GRIDS

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

- In view of the very low rural electrification rates in this country, has the government examined new alternatives to traditional grid extension programmes, such as village-level mini-grids for renewable energy?
- Since the provision of electricity for the rural poor is one of the government's top priorities, would [the Minister] explain what measures are being taken to support innovative solutions such as village-level mini-grids and standalone solar or hydro systems?

IN SUPPORT OF RELAXED REGULATION FOR PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

- Given the slow pace of rural electrification in this country, will the government consider encourage private enterprises to facilitate the establishment of village-level mini-grids by easing the regulatory and tax burdens on such companies?

IN SUPPORT OF CO-OPERATIVES

- In many parts of the country, villagers have waited many years for the electricity grid to penetrate as far as their locality, to no avail. In cases where the local residents are willing to invest their own resources in the development of small-scale renewable energy mini-grids, will the government support such organisations and provide assistance for local co-operatives to access state subsidies at similar levels to those that already exist for grid-connected power?

IF NO SEPARATE AGENCY FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION EXISTS

- Would [the Minister] please outline [his] plans to create institutions to specifically promote the electrification of rural areas?

IN COUNTRIES WHERE FEED-IN TARIFFS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY ALREADY EXIST

- Will the government consider extending the concept of feed-in tariffs (FITs) so that the FIT rates that apply to the national grid are also applicable to village-level mini-grids and standalone systems?