

Reply to queries raised by ABP News through email on 28th April 2016

1. Under the DDUGJY, there are 12 milestones towards electrification (classified M1 to M12). According to GARV app, the 7,300-odd villages the government claimed were 'electrified' as of April 24 show different achievement of milestones. It's not clear where in this M1 to M12 hierarchy the government is defining electrified. The definitions of M1 to M12 show it's the last three stages (M10 to M12), which is when all the works are finished and the village is energised. This have been met by only 28% of these 7,300-odd villages. This means that around 2044 villages are actually electrified on ground. Then, why is the government claiming that 7300 odd villages have been electrified?

To capture the progress of works in a village, the entire process of village electrification was divided into 12 milestones. The milestones are used for capturing the progress of ongoing only works (i.e. at the time of visit by GVA). A village is electrified after it fulfills the definition of village electrification (Annexure-I). Milestone progress and electrification of a village are independent of each other. For example, a village may achieve all milestones, but if the electrified households are less than 10%, the village is not considered as an electrified village. Similarly, a village may fulfill the definition of village electrification, but works may still be under progress to cover 100% households, and in such cases all milestones may not be achieved.

Regarding your query, as already clarified above, the milestones capture only the progress of works at the time of visit of the GVA whereas declaring the village as electrified is as per definition of village electrification. In case a village meets the definition of village electrification, but works are still going on for connectivity of 100% households, the GVA marks the village as electrified along with milestone-wise status of the new works.

2. Besides these 12 milestones, there is a 13th category of M0. This represents villages that were electrified from before—sometimes in a patchy way, as the comments of the audit officers indicate—but are in need intensive household-level electrification. As many as 38% of the 7,300-odd villages fall under this category. This means that as many as 2774 villages were electrified from before. Then, why were these villages counted as unelectrified and now being claimed as electrified?

M0 does not imply electrified before as claimed in your query. It is used to indicate that no new works were ongoing at the time of visit by GVA. It does not reflect the status of village electrification.

In pursuance of the announcement of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to electrify all remaining un-electrified villages in the country, the states were asked to provide the detailed list of un-electrified villages along with their census codes and proposed mode of electrification. Accordingly, after due diligence and taking into account the new 2011 Census codes, the states have provided a list of 18,452 villages which were un-electrified as on 1st April 2015.

As the states have already confirmed that these 18,452 villages were un-electrified as on 1st April 2015, the progress of 7467 as on date is correct.

3. The remaining villages fall at various stages in between. For example, the last milestone for 265 villages is shown as M4 (erection of poles for LT line), but these are still counted as 'electrified'. Why, So?

A village is declared electrified based on the definition of village electrification as a whole, i.e. considering all habitations and households within the boundary of the revenue village. There are possibilities that a village meets the definition of village electrification, but works are still going on in some habitations in the village. In such cases the GVA has marked the village as electrified along with milestone-wise status of the new works. Hence, as clarified above, based on milestone status only, electrification status of a village cannot be concluded.

4. Our analysis of the data shows that half of rural households in the 19 states under the programme are unelectrified. Take Bihar and UP. Only 13% of villages in UP are meeting M10 to M12 milestones, against 74% of Bihar villages. Yet, both states have a similar, and very high, percentage of rural households are unelectrified: 88% for Bihar and 71% for UP. For most states, this figure is uncomfortably high.

At an all-India level, 49% of rural households in the 19 states covered by GARV app are classified as unelectrified. Your detailed comments on the same?

The basis of the figures mentioned above are not clear. However, to respond to your query, a village is considered electrified after electrification of at least 10% households along with other criteria. After electrification of the village, intensification works are taken up till 100% households are electrified. Hence, intensification is an ongoing process, not only in these 18,452 villages, but also in the villages electrified long ago. Intensification works are also going on in those states where 100% village electrification have already been completed such as Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, etc. Therefore, the percentage of village electrification always differs with the percentage of rural households electrified.

The percentages stated in the above queries have no basis. Please share with us your analysis that was used to arrive at the figures stated above.

Definition of Electrified Village

Prior to October 1997

A Village should be classified as electrified if electricity is being used within its revenue area for any purpose whatsoever.

After October 1997

A village will be deemed to be electrified if the electricity is used in the inhabited locality, within the revenue boundary of the village for any purpose whatsoever.

After October 2004

Issued by MOP, vide their letter No. 42/1/2001-D(RE) dated 5th February 2004 and its corrigendum vide letter no. 42/1/2001-D(RE) dated 17th February 2004.) As per the new definition, a village would be declared as electrified, if :

Basic infrastructure such as Distribution Transformer and Distribution lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the Dalit Basti hamlet where it exists.

Electricity is provided to public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centers, Dispensaries, Community centers etc.

The number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village.