

R. V. MOORTHY

# WAITING FOR LIGHT

The government's latest scheme to achieve universal household electrification is high on ambition and sets impractical targets.

By RAMESH CHAKRAPANI

With the launch, in September, of the Saubhagya scheme, a Rs.16,320-crore project aimed at providing electricity to all willing households, the Narendra Modi regime has once again brought into focus the enormity of the task of bringing power to every household in the country and the progress the government has made so far.

Statistics from the Rural Electrification Corporation show that the targeted number of households is around 4.04 crore, with Uttar Pradesh alone accounting for more than 1.46 crore (nearly 40 per cent).

Other States with a high number of households without power are Rajasthan (above 20 lakh), Assam (above 24 lakh), Jharkhand (above 30 lakh), Odisha (above 32 lakh), Madhya Pradesh (nearly 45 lakh) and Bihar (above 64 lakh). As per latest data

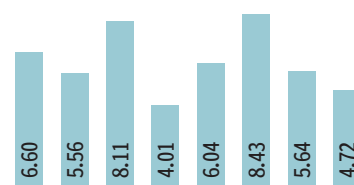
available, only about 23 per cent of the target (25.87 lakh households) has been met.

However, the website also says that the rural electrification target aims to bring power to 18,452 villages and that the government has already achieved 79 per cent of the target (14,564).

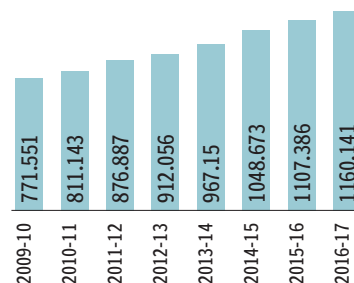
The disparity in the percentages stems from the official definition of an electrified village: as per law, the government can declare a village as electrified if just 10 per cent of the households have been given electrical connections.

According to Central Electricity Authority data, the power supply position in the country has been improving over the past eight years, with the gap between requirement and availability down from 10.1 per cent in 2009-10 to 0.7 per cent in 2016-17.

## Growth in generation (%)



## Power generation in billion units



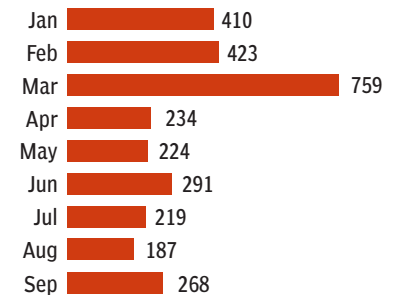
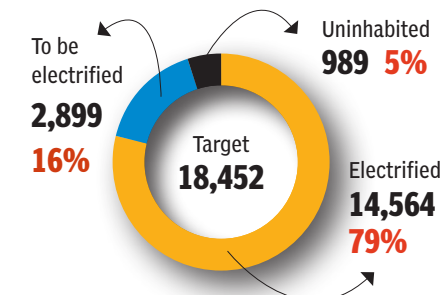
## No of households to be electrified

Below 500	
A.P.	5
Tamil Nadu	12
Kerala	103
Gujarat	244
Puducherry	375
5,000 to 1 lakh	
Sikkim	5,628
Mizoram	10,956
H.P.	12,818
Arunachal	81,200
Nagaland	87,895
1 lakh-10 lakh	
Manipur	107,100
West Bengal	132,463
Meghalaya	139,267
Uttarakhand	185,034
Tripura	215,809
J&K	271,140
Maharashtra	362,735
Telangana	412,012
Chhattisgarh	639,196
Haryana	682,381
Karnataka	737,160
Above 10 lakh	
Rajasthan	20,17,617
Assam	24,12,202
Jharkhand	30,45,554
Odisha	32,62,776
M.P.	44,98,486
Bihar	64,83,504
Above 1 crore	
U.P.	1,46,55,645
Total	4,04,59,073

Source: http://garv.gov.in

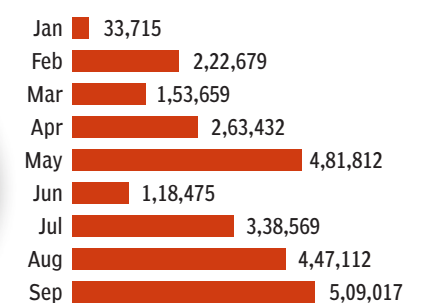
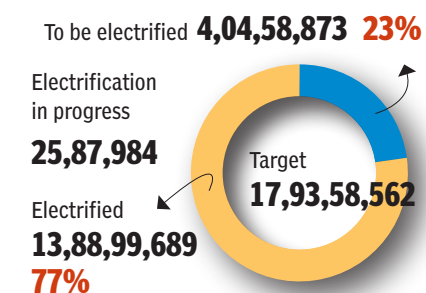
## Villages electrification

## Progress in 2017



## Households electrification

## Progress in 2017



## Power supply position (million units)

Year	Requirement	Availability	Deficit	Deficit (%)
2009-10	8,30,594	7,46,644	83,950	10.1
2010-11	8,61,591	7,88,355	73,236	8.5
2011-12	9,37,199	8,57,886	79,313	8.5
2012-13	9,95,557	9,08,652	86,905	8.7
2013-14	10,02,257	9,59,829	42,428	4.2
2014-15	10,68,923	10,30,785	38,138	3.6
2015-16	11,14,408	10,90,850	23,558	2.1
2016-17	11,42,929	11,35,334	7,595	0.7

Source: CEA

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## Total installed capacity in megawatts

(as on August 31, 2017)

### State Sector

81,652 24.8%

### Central Sector

102,933 31.3%

### Private Sector

144,641 43.9%

### Total

3,29,226 100%

## Power generation sources (megawatts)

