

# '1.2L UP hamlets electrified, rest 37k to get power soon'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** More than 1.21 lakh hamlets in UP have been electrified and the remaining 37,000 hamlets will also get power soon with cooperation from the central government, power minister Arvind Kumar Sharma told the House on Wednesday.

He was replying to a question listed by SP's Jagdish Narain. He claimed that all the revenue villages, as per the census of 2011, have been electrified and no revenue village after 2018 is left for electrification.

"UP government has sent a request to the Union government to get them electrified under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)," Sharma told the House.

The request for electrification of these hamlets was sent in October last year and the discussions with the central government is going on in this regard, he said while adding that the state energy department has sought a financial assistance of Rs 1,958 crore for the task. Replying to another question, Sharma said that the energy department has been able to collect data of around 3 crore consumers out of the total 3.22 crore consumers.

The data includes the consumer's phone number and proper address.



Arvind Kumar Sharma

Like telecom operators, the energy department will soon start sending messages to the consumers regarding their electricity bill, amount due and disconnection date, if the bill is not paid.

Replying to another question, he said that around Rs 1,764.53 crore worth electricity bill was due on different departments in the state.

SP member Mehboob Ali, in a supplementary question, however said that the minister was hiding some figures as according to his information the urban development department, of which also he is the minister, alone owes over Rs 4,000 crore.

Sharma clarified that this was a net bill and not the gross amount, which includes surcharge etc that has been given in the reply.

Sharma also informed the House that now the billing of all the government schools, police stations and other such facilities have been centralised. Instead of the

bill of each school and police station being released, a total bill amount would be realised from the head of the department. This has become possible after the intervention of the finance department led by its minister Suresh Khanna, Sharma said.

## Roads to connect small

**villages soon:** The Public Works Department has taken up the task of connecting villages or hamlets that have a population of 250 through roads, said its minister Jitin Prasada. Initially, 1km roads that need to be connected have been taken up, the minister said and added that once all the one-kilometre stretch roads get constructed, 500 metre road construction would be taken up. Prasada was replying to a question by SP legislator Ragini Sonker.

## 'Form panel to probe effect of fly ash on health':

Speaker Satish Mahana directed the environment minister Arun Saxena to form a committee of experts to study the impact of fly ash coming from NTPC chimneys in Unchahar assembly segment, affecting 25 village panchayats. He also directed the environment minister to direct the committee to take along with them SP chief whip Manoj Pandey and submit the report of the findings within 15 days.