

# Booster for rooftop solar, power for EVs

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**NEW DELHI:** Quicker installation of rooftop solar projects, dedicated power connections to charge electric vehicles at home, and speedier grant of electric connections to households may be a reality soon, with the government tweaking key rules in this respect.

Rooftop solar installations with a capacity of up to 10 KW (kilowatt) will not need a technical feasibility study anymore after the government amended the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 on Friday. *Mint* was the first to report on January 8 about this planned waiver.

For systems above 10 KW, the timeline to complete the feasibility study is cut from 20 days to 15. In case the study is not



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completed by then, the approval will be deemed to have been given. Also, for rooftop solar PV systems up to 5 KW capacity, the distribution company will have to strengthen the distribution system at its own cost.

The timeline for the distribution licence to commission rooftop systems stands reduced from 30 days to 15.

Union power minister R.K. Singh said the amendments also reduce the timeline for getting new electricity connections and that they simplify the process of setting up rooftop solar installations.

"Amendments have been made in the rules, to facilitate faster installation and enhance the ease of setting up rooftop solar PV systems at the premises of prosumers," a ministry statement said.

The amendments come close on the heels of government launching the PM Surya Ghar Scheme to help 10 million households install rooftop projects with incentives.

"With this welcome change, residential rooftop installation will become easier faster and

hassle-free. Since the timeframe for system feasibility is also fixed, net metering approval will be easier and faster and consumer will start getting benefit of prosumer very fast," said Shriprakash Rai, chief revenue officer (CRO), commercial and industrial business, Amptn Energy Transition.

The amended rules also provide for separate electric connections for EV charging. "Consumers can now obtain separate electricity connections for charging their electric vehicles (EVs)," the statement said.

The amendment has also reduced the time period for obtaining a new electricity connection from seven days to three days in metropolitan areas, 15 to 7 in other municipal areas, and 30 to 15 in rural areas. However, in rural areas with hilly terrain, it will remain at 30 days.