

Saubhagya – Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana

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Source: PIB & National portal of India

Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana –“Saubhagya” scheme was launched by the government of India to **ensure electrification(electricity connections) of all willing households in the country in rural as well as urban areas**

Aim and objectives

- The objective of the ‘Saubhagya’ is to provide energy access to all by last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified households in rural as well as urban areas to achieve universal household electrification in the country.

Key features

- The beneficiaries for free electricity connections would be identified using the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data. However, **un-electrified households not covered under the SECC data would also be provided electricity connections under the scheme on payment of Rs. 500** which shall be recovered by DISCOMs in 10 installments through electricity bill.
- **The solar power packs of 200 to 300 Wp with battery bank for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible areas**, comprises of Five LED lights, One DC fan, One DC power plug. It also includes Repair and Maintenance (R&M) for 5 years.
- The scheme will provide **subsidy on equipment such as transformers, wires, and meters.**
- Ministry of Power would be the implementing authority of the scheme.

- Power connection will be provided in both rural and urban areas of the country.

Earlier programme of 24x7 power for all VS Saubhagya scheme

- 24x7 Power for All' is a joint initiative with the states covering all segments of power sector i.e. Power generation, transmission and distribution, energy efficiency, the health of Discom, etc. to finalize State/UT specific roadmap and action plan to ensure 24x7 power for all in consultation with States/UTs. The Power for All documents contain details of various interventions required across the value chain of the power sector.
- Providing connectivity to all households is a prerequisite to ensure 24x7 power supply. Saubhagya is a schematic support to address the issue of energy access.

Implementation

- For easy & accelerated implementation of the Scheme, modern technology shall be used for the household surveys by using **Mobile App**.
- Beneficiaries shall be identified and their application for electricity connection along with applicant photograph and identity proof shall be registered on spot.
- **The Gram Panchayat/Public institutions** in the rural areas may be authorized to collect application forms along with complete documentation, distribute bills and collect revenue in consultation with the **Panchayat Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies**.
- **The Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) will remain the nodal agency for the operationalization of the scheme** throughout the country.

Significance of Saubhagya

- Access to electricity to all willing households

- Substitution to Kerosene
- Improvement in Health Services
- Improvement in Communications
- Improvement in Public Safety
- Increased Job Opportunities
- Better Quality of Life, especially for Women, in Daily Chores