

1. Department : Electricity

2. a) Sector : Energy

b) Sub-Sector: I.R.E.P.

3. Scheme No : IREP - 1

4. Name of the scheme: Integrated Rural Energy Planning Programme.

5. OBJECTIVE OF THE 9TH FIVE YEAR PLAN :-

The main objective of Integrated Rural Energy Planning Programme is to develop, design and implement rural energy project so as to meet the cooking and lighting energy needs of people living in rural areas / villages. This is a new component of minimum needs programme under the 20 Point Programme of G.O.I. House-holds surveys are conducted in rural area for ascertaining the availability of resources and requirements of energy and project reports for various blocks are prepared so as to provide economical mix of both the Conventional and Non-Conventional Sources of Energy for meeting the domestic energy needs. This IREP Programme was approved by the Planning Commission during September 1986 for implementation in these islands and IREP Cells for 2 Blocks were sanctioned in 11/86. A State Level Cell was sanctioned during March 1987. One more IREP Cell was approved during 12/89 and 2 IREP Cells for another 2 Blocks were sanctioned during April 1995. Staff have been appointed against the posts and posted to the cells in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Five IREP Cells are working in 5 Blocks for implementation of this programme.

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands consists of around 590 islands out of which 36 islands are inhabited and there are above 15000 house-holds below poverty line out of total around 50,000 Nos. of house-holds. The availability of resources and requirement of energy in different islands in a block are different due to scattered locations of the islands, hence project reports have been prepared island-wise / block-wise. On the basis of the reports, necessary schemes for the requirement of the energy devices and implementation of Urjagram Projects in some of the islands are under preparation for approval by competent authorities. The MNES also sanctioned, during 95-96, a District Technical Back Up Unit, the Govt. Polytechnic at Port Blair, which is yet to start functioning. On the basis of the energy survey of various islands / blocks it is proposed to provide the required number of renewable energy devices such as Improved Chulhas, Solar Lanterns, Biogas Plants, Solar Lighting System, Solar Cookers, Solar Driers, Solar PV Pumps etc. at subsidised rates. It is also proposed to provide energy efficient devices such as kerosene lanterns, kerosene stoves, fluorescent / CF lamps, electronic chokes and regulators etc. at subsidised rates. This scheme also provides bringing general awareness among the rural masses, students and other related people by conducting seminars and camps at different areas so that energy utilisation in the domestic sector is done in the most efficient manner. The subsidies for the NRSE devices are proposed as the rural poor does not have enough purchasing power.

It is proposed to implement this scheme / programme in association with the Panchayati Raj Institution, who will be involved in identification of the beneficiaries, training of rural youths especially women in operation and maintenance of these devices and monitoring of their functioning. It is also proposed to resurvey the Islands/ Blocks where the energy survey was conducted during the 8th plan to assess the impact of IREP and for providing additional inputs in new / leftout areas.

As most of the NRSE /energy saving devices are procured from mainland firms, it is proposed to meet 100 % transport cost for these items from production centre to users' premises. In addition to the existing central subsidy additional subsidy, as being done in agriculture sector, is proposed to extend even 100 % for some of the items like SWH system, Improved Kerosene Stove, Solar Cooker, Improved Kerosene Lantern, Flu. tube lights etc. as being given in North Eastern States like Meghalaya etc. Electricity is generated by D.G. Sets in these islands and the cost of generation is Rs.4.50 per unit at present. Hence energy conserving / saving devices such as Flu. / CF lamps will reduce the consumption of power and peak demand which is mostly due to domestic load in peak hours. Therefore it is proposed to provide subsidy to the energy saving devices.