



GRAM UJALA

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Why in News

Recently, the Government has launched the **Gram UJALA** Programme - **an ambitious scheme offering the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas at a mere Rs. 10.**

Key Points

- **Coverage:** In its **first phase launched from Arrah in Bihar, 15 million LED bulbs** will be distributed **across villages of 5 districts** - Aarah (Bihar), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and villages in western Gujarat.

The light-emitting diode (LED) is one of today's most energy-efficient and rapidly-developing lighting technologies.

- **Implementation:**
 - **7 watt and 12-watt LED bulbs with 3 years warranty** will be given to rural consumers **against submission of working Incandescent bulbs.**
 - Each **household** will get **up to 5 LEDs.**
 - Participating rural households **will also have metres installed in their houses** to account for usage.
 - The **LED bulbs are offered** by state-run **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd's (EESL's) subsidiary Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL).**

EESL is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the **Ministry of Power.**

- **Financing Mechanism:**

- The programme will be financed **entirely through carbon credits** and will be the **first such programme** in India.
- The **revenue earned from carbon credits** will contribute Rs. 60 per LED bulb piece, with the balance Rs. 10 to be paid by the rural consumer.
 - **Carbon credit (or “carbon offsets”)** are certificates generated by projects or activities that reduce, avoid, or destroy greenhouse gases.
 - Project owners, such as solar and wind energy developers, or protectors of endangered forestlands can sell these certificates to an individual or a company to earn revenues to keep expanding their projects into the future.
 - When one purchases carbon offsets, one is funding the reduction or elimination of carbon.
- Further on, **carbon credit documentation** will be **sent to United Nations (UN) accredited validators** for inclusion into the **Shine Program of activities**.
 - Carbon credits will be prepared under the Shine Program of Activities with an option for verifying under the Voluntary Carbon Standard, depending on the needs of buyers.
 - Carbon Credit Buyers will also be sought through an open process based on initial discussions with the market.

- **Significance:**

- Help in meeting **intended nationally determined contributions** under **paris climate accord**.

If all 300 million lights in India were replaced, the total energy savings would be 40,743 million kWh/year, avoiding peak demand of 22,743MW/year and CO₂ reductions of 37 million tons per year.
- Through extra carbon credit, India will **boost its position in global carbon trade**.
- Boost to efforts to **ensure 24-hour power supply**.
 - The Prime Minister of India, in his Independence Day speech of 2015, promised that all villages where electricity was yet to reach, will have power within 1,000 days.
 - To create basic power infrastructure and connectivity, the government had announced a scheme - the **Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana**.
- Help in the **growth of domestic LED markets**.
- Meet the benefit of **sustainable development goals (SDG)**.

Specially **SDG7**: To ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

- **Other Schemes for Encouraging Use of LED Bulbs:**

- **Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)**.
- Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP).

Source:PIB