

Shri R. K. Singh inaugurates Solar Study Lamp Assembly and Distribution Centre in Arrah, Bihar

- 4,52,257 solar study lamps distributed to students till date; EESL strengthens footprint to 24 operational Assembly and Distribution (A&D) centres in the state.
- New A&D Centre will generate employment for 30 women in Arrah, Bhojpur district
- MoU signed between State Rural Livelihood Mission, IIT Bombay and District Administration; lays foundation for a PV module manufacturing unit in Bihar
- EESL and IITB are currently implementing the 70-lakh solar study lamp scheme across Assam, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha

April 14, 2018, Arrah: Hon'ble Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, Shri R K Singh today inaugurated the Solar Study Lamp Assembly and Distribution Center in Arrah, Bihar. The A&D centre will create employment opportunities for 30 women who will assemble solar study lamps and distribute them to school children who do not have access to electricity.

The event was also graced by officials from EESL, IIT Bombay, Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society - Jeevika and District Administration.

To lay the foundation for a photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing plant in the state, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between the State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM), IIT-B, and the District Administration of Bhojpur. The solar PV Module manufacturing unit established in Sherghati, Gaya will be entirely owned and operated by local women Self Help Group Federations.

The Hon'ble Minister also distributed solar study lamps to underprivileged school going students and informed them about the importance of these lamps and how this initiative will brighten their future as empowered citizens.

Speaking at the occasion, Hon'ble Minister, Shri R. K. Singh said, *"It is a moment of pride for us to see that over 4 lakh students in Bihar have access to high quality, affordable, and environmentally sustainable lighting, in the form of solar study lamps. The lamps will not only provide kerosene-free affordable illumination to aid students, but also empower rural women with the skills to assemble, distribute and repair solar lamps. These technical skills will enable them to earn a viable livelihood and create a pathway for them to become solar entrepreneurs. I commend the efforts of EESL and IIT-Bombay for their work on the distribution of solar study lamps not just in Bihar, but other states as well."*

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's 70 Lakh Solar Study Lamps Scheme was



initiated to empower 70 lakh rural students with affordable and environmentally sustainable illumination to aid their education in the fastest and most effective manner. EESL, along with IIT Bombay, is implementing the scheme in Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha. The scheme will cover 20,000 villages in approximately 325 blocks spread across 49 districts. Till date, 1300 rural woman have been trained at the local level. The key objectives of the scheme include supporting education, livelihood generation, curbing kerosene dependency, generating awareness while reaching out the most marginalized communities.

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