

Though the saubaghya scheme has performed well, but there's a need to conduct socio economic impact audits. Elaborate.

→ The Pradhan mantri saharj Bijli Har ghar yojana or saubaghya scheme was initiated in the year 2017 to provide 100% electrification to all rural households and poor urban households.

→ Almost 2.8 crore households have been electrified under the scheme according to the scheme's transactional audit, but they however lack socio-economic impact audits.

### Efficiency of the scheme and its audits

→ The International Energy agency has identified the scheme to be one of the great successes in history of electrification.

→ The scheme is an expanded version of the Deendayal upadhyaya gram jyothi yojana (DDUGJY) which now stands as one of world's best electrification programmes.

→ However, not accounting for the socio-economic impacts caused by the scheme stands a flaw to the program.

→ Need for socio economic audit:-

- (a) Beneficiary satisfaction to be taken into account
- (b) to account efficient and last mile power availability through economic activity account
- (c) to know the trend of usage of electricity at newly electrified homes.
- (d) ensures profit & incentives to distribution utilities
- (e) ensures knowledge of dissemination.

Hence, having seen the needs for socio economic audits, the government has set up a district committee headed by the senior MP in the districts and other eminent members of the district in order to ensure the accountability of socio economic audit along with transactional audit of the scheme.

### Way forward

A 360-degree holistic approach is needed by the government to understand the needs of the locals and ensure inclusivity and consultative approaches in widening the scopes of such schemes.