

after-sales servicing of solar energy systems, and (iv) support for capacity building and to create awareness through print and electronic media about the solar energy systems and their benefits.

Special package for New and Renewable Energy

947. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is having any proposal to increase the power generation through the Ministry by providing special package; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) A target for capacity addition of 15,000 MW (14,000 MW grid-interactive and 1,000 MW off-grid/ distributed) from different renewable energy sources - wind, biomass, small hydro and solar, has been set for the 11th Plan period. To achieve this target, the Government has already put in place an attractive package (mix of fiscal and financial incentives) to encourage private investment in the sector. The same includes capital/interest subsidies, accelerated depreciation, nil/ concessional excise and customs duties. Further benefit under Section 80-1A of Income Tax Act 1961 is available to undertakings setup for the generation or generation and distribution of Renewable power in India. This apart, preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power is being given in most potential States.

Viability of Solar Power Generation

948. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of power generated in the country from solar energy and the cost per mega watt;

(b) the details of projects under implementation;

(c) whether solar power generation is economically viable;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of research in the country to make solar power cheap?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) A total of 32 grid interactive solar photovoltaic power plants, with aggregate capacity of 2.1 Megawatt, have been installed in the country with financial support from the Government. The estimated cost of solar power plants is in the range of Rs. 17 crore to Rs. 20 crore per mega watt.

(b) A two mega watt capacity grid interactive solar photovoltaic power plant is being set up by West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation Limited in Asansol district in West Bengal. In addition, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited is also setting up a mega watt capacity solar photovoltaic power plant in Raichur district at the tail-end of the grid.

(c) and (d) At present the estimated cost of solar power generation is about Rs. 13 to Rs 15 per unit, which is high in comparison to power available from other sources.

The cost of solar energy systems have been reducing, however, it may take some more time for solar energy systems to become competitive to other sources of energy.

(e) The Government has been supporting research and development to reduce the cost of solar power through (i) improvements in the performance of existing solar devices (ii) reduction in the consumption of materials (iii) development of new materials and devices; (iv) development of grid interactive electronic systems etc. In addition, setting up of a solar thermal power generation and test facility is being supported.

The research efforts are aimed at reducing the cost of solar power to make them competitive to grid power in next 8-10 years.

Ethanol Blended Petrol

†949. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had planned during the past few years to sell ethanol blended petrol, to increase the availability of petrol in the country and to keep its price in check;

(b) if so, when this plan was formulated and the percentage of ethanol that was to be mixed with petrol and under this plan, and when the decision in this regard was taken;

(c) whether the said plan has been executed in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when this plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide its Notification dated 20th September, 2006 has directed the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to sell 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) subject to commercial viability in the entire country except North-Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep with effect from 1st November, 2006.

At present 5% EBP programme is being implemented in 16 States and 3 UTs out of 20 States and 4 UTs identified for implementing the programme. Issues like availability of ethanol, State Excise procedures and taxation policy adopted by State Governments are coming in the way of smooth implementation of the programme nationwide.

Market share of OMCs and PSOCs

†950. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi