

(c) whether any research is being undertaken in the country to convert majority of the light falling on a solar cell into electricity; and

(d) if so, the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The progress made in respect of solar energy programmes of the Ministry and funds allocated and actual expenditure during the last three years are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The Ministry is supporting research in all aspects of solar photovoltaic technology development, including improvement in efficiency of solar cells. The research efforts have led to the increase in solar cell efficiencies from 12-13 per cent to 14-16 percent, during the last few years.

Statement

Progress made funds allocated and expenditure incurred in Solar Energy Programmes during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09

(A)

Solar Energy Systems Installed	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Solar Home Lighting System (Nos.)	23,033	52,262	50,904
Lanterns (Nos.)	80,727	92,267	41,397
Street Lights (Nos.)	4,659	8,462	7,391
SPV Pumps (Nos.)	66	42	56
Solar Cookers (Nos.)	16,209	20,165	20,590
Solar Hot Water Systems (lakh Square metres)	4.00	4.5	5.60

(B)

(Rs. in crores)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Funds Allocated	87.25	130.00	119.00
Expenditure	75.81	77.85	82.45

Jatropha cultivation

3277. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a detailed survey has been made about the availability of fallow and barren land which is not utilized for agriculture but can be utilized for growing Jatropha which is a raw material for bio fuel;

(b) if so, how the Ministry plans to subsidize Jatropha cultivation; and

(c) whether any estimate has been made about the commercial viability of producing bio-diesel by this process, as the conventional diesel is being sold at highly subsidized rates?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as per Wasteland Atlas of India (2005), the total wasteland in the country is estimated at 55.2 million hectares. An amount of Rs. 49.00 crore was released by Ministry of Rural Development during 2005-06 and Rs. 49.50 crore in the States for raising Jatropha nurseries. The Ministry of Agriculture through National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board is providing 100% financial assistance to State Governments/Institutions for undertaking plantation of Jatropha for bio-diesel production on Government/Institutional land as promotional programme. Besides, the Board also provides 30% financial assistance under Back-Ended Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme to individuals and Non-governmental organisations to the extent of Rs. 6.50 lakh.

(c) Commercial viability of producing bio-diesel from Jatropha has not yet been established on account of non-availability of sufficient quantities of planting materials and non-edible oil seeds.

Release of funds under NBMMP

3278. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals to release funds for the year 2007-08 for Maharashtra under the centrally sponsored National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP) are long pending before Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that delay in releasing funds to State Governments unnecessarily imposes financial burden on the States' economy and affects smooth running of the programme, as well; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take to release these funds without much delay?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Under the National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP), the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has released first installment of 50% of the Central Financial Assistance (CFA) in accordance with the allocation of physical target for the year 2007-08 to the State of Maharashtra. In accordance with the provisions of the programme, balance of the funds is released on receipt of satisfactory progress report, utilization certificate and AG audited statement of accounts.

As the State Government of Maharashtra did not submit their claims alongwith the audited statement of accounts from the office of the Account General of Maharashtra, the balance of the funds could not be released. The funds would be released after the receipt of required documents from the State Government of Maharashtra.