

### **Biomass for power generation**

3275. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70-75 per cent of Biomass resources in India are used as fodder, as fuel for domestic cooking and for other economic purposes, leaving 120- 150 million tonnes of usable agro-industrial and agricultural residues per year which would be used for power generation;

(b) if so, the details of power projects working and under implementation, based on usable agro-industrial and agricultural residues; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the availability of Bio mass for power generation?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir. As per National Biomass Resource Atlas prepared by Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore under a project sponsored by the Ministry the surplus agro industrial and agricultural residues in the country has been estimated to about 120-150 million MT per year for power generation which has a biomass power potential of about 18000 MW.

(b) A cumulative biomass power generation capacity of 1870 MW through 220 projects has already been installed and 2170 MW through 170 projects are under implementation as on 30.6.2009 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) The Government is providing various fiscal incentives for setting up of power generation projects from biomass throughout the country including capital subsidy linked with capacity and fiscal incentives such as concessional customs duty on import of machineries and components, excise duty exemption, accelerated depreciation on major components, relief from taxes and term loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), and other financial institutions. This apart, preferential tariff is being provided for sale of power from commercial biomass power projects in 14 states. Promotional incentives are also provided for development of biomass power projects, capacity building, awareness creation etc.

### **Solar energy**

3276. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in respect of harnessing the solar energy, during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount allocated for the purpose and spent during each of the last three financial years;