

Thermal Federation of India (STFI) has indicated that achievement of about 18.7 million square meter of solar thermal collector area is possible as against the Mission target of 20 million square meter by 2022. The STFI has not submitted any memorandum to the Ministry in this regard.

(b) to (d) As per reports, there are about 3 lakh telecom towers in the country and most of them use diesel generator as a backup power source. These are estimated to be consuming about 1 billion liters of diesel in a year. Many tower companies and mobile service providers have used solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at telecom towers to reduce their dependence on diesel generators.

Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) by 2022 about 2000 MW capacity equivalent off-grid solar applications such as solar PV systems in telecom towers, rural power plants, solar pumps, solar lights etc. are to be supported.

200 MW capacity equivalent off-grid solar applications are to be supported in the first phase of the Mission, till 2012-13.

Electrified villages under RVES

3329. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria and the definition of an electrified village in the Remote Village Electrification Schemes;

(b) whether Government is planning to declare a village with all houses connected with electricity as an electrified village;

(c) whether Government has installed any such mechanism to check the levels of electrified villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (d) In accordance with approved definition of village electrification, remote villages will be deemed to be electrified if a minimum of 10% of the households are provided with electricity and electricity is also made available for community facilities and for Dalit Bastis of the village, if any. However, as per the National Rural Electrification Policy, 2006, villages using isolated lighting technologies like solar photovoltaic, may not be designated as electrified. Further, as per the laid down guidelines of Remote Village Electrification Programme, financial support is provided to State implementing agencies for coverage of upto 100% of the households in an eligible village. However, the actual level of coverage is decided by the State implementing agencies in consultation with the village panchayats.

Targets and achievements of village electrification programme

3330. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target set and achieved so far under village electrification programme

through renewable energy sources in Jharkhand during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that the target fixed has not been achieved; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) Under the Remote Village Electrification Programme, no State-wise targets are set and Central Financial Assistance for implementation of projects is approved on the basis of proposals submitted by the State notified implementing agencies. During the Eleventh Plan, such proposals for providing solar homelighting systems in 44 villages have been approved for Central Financial Assistance.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Popularisation of renewable sources of energy

3331. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what measures are being taken to popularize the renewable sources of energy in the rural areas;

(b) in view of the growing demand of energy, what special thrusts are given by Government to solar lanterns and other solar equipments to meet the requirement of energy of household sector; and

(c) whether, keeping in mind the affordability factor of the economically marginalized sections of society, Government either would give certain financial incentives to them or make certain technological initiatives to make them cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) The Government has taken several steps to popularise renewable energy in rural areas of the country. These include (i) taking up expanded programmes to encourage utilization of renewable energy technologies through subsidy or soft loans, (ii) incentive to manufacturers, commercial users and power project developers (iii) support to Akshaya Urja shops to provide additional channels for supply and after-sales service of these systems, (iv) support for capacity building; and (v) create awareness through print and electronic media.

The Ministry is also providing financial assistance to regional rural banks for some of the promotional activities such as capacity building, awareness generation and preparation of manual for procedures, software and other specified activities to extend loans to consumers for purchasing solar home lighting and other solar systems for powering small loads.

(b) and (c) Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) a target of 20,000 MW grid connected solar power, 2000 MW off-grid solar power including 20 million solar lights, and installation of 20 million square meter solar thermal collector area by 2022 has been set.