

Complaints received by DESU from residents of Yamuna Vihar

21 IT. SHRI KALRAJ MTSRA:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints received by DESU from residents of Yamuna Vihar, Delhi, regarding the non-functioning of the electricity meters installed at their residences during the last three years and out of them how many complaints have so far been attended to; and

(b) what action is proposed to be taken to replace the defective electricity meters in the above colony?

- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) According to DESU, 293 complaints regarding defective/stopped meters were received during the last three years. 263 complaints have been attended to leaving a balance of 30. Such meters are replaced wherever necessary.

Tax Exemption to Industries manufacturing Solar Cookers, etc.

2118. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tax exemptions are granted to industries manufacturing solar cookers, bio-gas plants, solar heating plants, photovoltaic panels, wind mills and similar energy saving devices;

(b) what are the names of the States which have not yet exempted these items from sales tax;

(c) whether the Central Government have any plan to persuade these States to exempt these items from sales tax in order to popularise their use thus contributing to the conservation of scarce non-renewable energy resources;

(d) whether the Central Government are providing any subsidy to industries producing any of these based renewable energy devices;

(e) if so, what is the subsidy in each case?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (e) The Central Government providing a number of incentives tax concessions/exemptions under Income tax, Excise duties, Custom duties etc., in respect of new and renewable energy systems and energy saving devices. At the initiative of the Central Government, a number of State Governments have exempted new and renewable energy systems and devices from sales tax and are also giving additional subsidies. On the basis of information available, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have exempted the renewable energy devices/equipments from sales tax. The State of Gujarat has reduced the sales tax on solar energy equipment manufactured in the State from 9 to 1 per cent. Similar action is awaited from other States also. A subsidy of 33 1/3 per cent of the cost of a solar cookers and its associated cooking pans, subject to a maximum of Rs. 150, is being given by the Central Government. Additional subsidy is being provided by some of the State Governments. Subsidy of 75 per cent to the small and marginal farmers and 33 1/3 per cent to other categories for solar photovoltaic pumps is being provided by the Ministry of Agriculture. Solar photovoltaic panels of capacity of 300 watt, for lighting and photovoltaic pumps with panels of 300 watt, capacity for water-pumping are being supplied at subsidised price to public institutions. Installation of solar water heating systems is also being subsidised by the Government. However, no direct financial subsidies are available to the industries, though finances from financial institutions are available on soft-terms.