(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of achievements made by Government in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) In accordance with the geo-thermal exploration studies carried out by different organizations there is an estimated potential of about 10,000 MW of geo-thermal energy generation in the country. These geo-thermal resources are spread over in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has constituted a Working Group for preparation of policy and guidelines to facilitate preparation and implementation of action plan to set up projects for utilization of geo-thermal energy in the country.

(d) During the last three years the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and West Bengal have taken steps to harness geo-thermal energy in their States. Geo-thermal resource assessment studies have been undertaken by the Ministry at various potential sites through National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad. Efforts are also being made to develop multi-purpose R&D-cum-technology demonstration projects for using geo-thermal energy for heating, cooling, green-house-cultivation and other applications.

Solar power generation

1979. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had invited proposal for 650 MW solar projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as against the proposals of 650 MW, Government had received proposals for 5,000 MW from many companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) As a part of approved activities under Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) issued request-for-selection (RfS) document for a total capacity of 620 MW grid connected solar power projects. This capacity comprised of 470 MW and 150 MW capacities for solar thermal and solar photovoltaic power plants, respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Against a capacity of 620 MW, NVVN received applications for 5126 MW capacity, including 3311 MW capacity for solar thermal and 1815 MW capacity for solar photovoltaic power plants.