

Energy Centre on 5th March, 2010. The plant was installed in a stand alone mode to supply un-interruptible and stable power to the critical loads of the Centre.

(b) and (c) The PV power plant has been in operation since March, 2010. So far around 16000 units of electricity have been generated by the plant. This has resulted not only saving of equal quantity, of electricity either from the grid or from diesel generators but has also helped in the operation of a few critical loads effectively.

#### **Solar lighting in schools and Government offices**

1975. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any action plan for providing solar lighting in schools and Government offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to extend financial assistance to States for this purpose; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if answer to (a) above be in the negative, by when Government proposes to have such an action plan?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Mission, the Ministry is providing 30% subsidy for installation of solar lighting systems to the beneficiaries including schools and Central/State Government institutions. The programme is implemented through the State nodal agencies and other government institutions, public sector undertakings and other channel partners.

#### **National policy on bio-fuels**

†1976. SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether promotion and development of bio-fuels have been envisaged in the national policy on bio-fuels;

(b) if so, the salient features of this policy;

(c) whether the steps have been taken to promote bio fuels including the replacement of petrol and diesel with bio-fuels;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a high level national bio fuels coordination committee has been constituted to coordinate and implement/monitor the programmes on bio-fuels; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The salient features of the National Policy on Biofuels are:

- Bio-diesel production from non-edible oil seeds in waste/degraded/marginal lands.
- An indicative target of 20% blending of bio-fuels, both for bio-diesel and bio-ethanol, by 2017.
- Minimum Support Price (MSP) for non-edible oil seeds would be announced with periodic revision to provide fair price to the growers.
- Minimum Purchase Price (MPP) for purchase of bio-ethanol and bio-diesel would be announced with periodic revision.
- Major thrust on research, development and demonstration with focus on plantations, processing and production of bio-fuels, including Second Generation Bio-fuels.
- A National Bio-fuel Coordination Committee, headed by the Prime Minister to provide policy guidance and coordination.

(c) and (d) An *ad hoc* ex-factory price of Rs. 27/- per litre has been fixed for procurement of ethanol by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMC). The OMCs directed to sell Ethanol Blended Petrol with effect from 01.09.2010. They have started procurement of ethanol and supply of Ethanol Blended Petrol has commenced.

The bio-diesel industry is still at a nascent stage of development. Since bio-diesel is not available in marketable quantities, the blending of bio-diesel with High Speed Diesel has not been set in motion.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A High Level National Biofuel Coordination Committee, headed by the Prime Minister, has been set up to provide coordination and policy guidance/review on different aspects of biofuels development, promotion and utilization. Other members of the Committee are Ministers of Agriculture, New and Renewable Energy, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Rural Development, Science and Technology and Environment and Forests besides Deputy Chairman Planning Commission. Secretary, in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is the Convener.

#### **Solar Mission under National Action Plan on Climate Change**

1977. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Action Plan on Climate Change has proposed to develop solar energy and set up a Solar Mission in the country;