

framework, technical issues and weak infrastructure to support fabrication, installation, maintenance, interconnection and evacuation of electricity from these systems.

The main clearances required for setting up offshore wind projects include those regarding environmental, security, shipping routes, aviation, mining and oil exploration zones, fishing zones etc.

Permission for solar energy projects

3361. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether many organisations, working in the field of solar energy, have sought the Government's permission to go ahead with their projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is considering to encourage such organisations to implement solar energy projects in the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether India is producing only a meagre amount of power from solar energy as compared to world's average; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) There is no requirement of getting "go ahead" from the Government of India for setting up solar projects. There are some schemes under which some support is provided as per guidelines contained therein.

(c) The Government is encouraging setting up solar energy projects.

(d) The Government has brought out schemes for setting up grid connected solar power projects and to promote various off grid applications. In addition, the Government notified reduced customs duty and exemption from excise duty on all items of machinery required for the initial setting up of a solar power generation project or facility.

The Government provides capital subsidy upto 30% of the benchmark cost and/ or soft loan at a rate of 5% interest to support deployment of various off grid solar applications.

(e) No, Sir. India is emerging as one of the leading countries in the field of solar power.

(f) The total installed capacity of solar power projects in the country has increased from 2 MW in 2009 to over 900 MW during 2012. Under JNNSM, 20,000 MW capacity addition of solar power projects is envisaged by 2022.