

(b) whether any innovating technology is on the anvil to increase the availability of clear sunny days?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH) : (a) The number of clear sunny days in a year are 300 to 330 days in most parts of the country.

(b) No, Sir.

Grid connectivity

1799. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate grid connectivity is being provided to the power being generated by renewable energy sources in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plans to take up new initiatives/programmes for ensuring grid availability for power generated from renewable energy in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Power generated from grid connected renewable power projects is currently evacuated through existing grid system in the respective states.

(c) and (d) The grid connectivity of renewable power projects is part of overall evacuation and transmission plan of the State. At this stage, no separate programme is envisaged for grid connectivity of renewable energy based power projects.

Penalties on companies for RPOS

1800. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has asked the power sector regulator to impose penalties on the companies, failing to comply with the renewable purchase obligation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number large companies like SAIL, have failed to fulfil their obligations as per the Electricity Act, 2003; and

- (d) if so, the action taken on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) The Forum of Regulators (A forum comprising of Chairperson of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and Chairpersons of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions) has approved a Model Regulation for State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) on Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) and its compliance, wherein there is a provision for levy of compliance charge on the basis of the shortfall in units of RPO at the forbearance price decided by the Central Commission, in event of obligated entities not fulfilling the renewable purchase obligation.

(c) and (d) The Electricity Act, 2003 mandates SERCs to specify a percentage of total power consumed by the obligated entities from renewable energy in their States. The responsibility of monitoring and also ensuring its compliance lies with the concerned SERCs.

Power plants in rural areas

1801. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the proposal of making power plants in rural areas eligible for renewable energy certificate;
- (b) whether the utilities as well as captive consumers would be allowed by RECs from such projects to meet their RPO;
- (c) whether provisions for simplifying implementation issues like metering, sale of RECs for the rural entrepreneurs are being taken into account; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) A power generating plant based on renewable energy, irrespective of its location, is eligible for Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) if it meets the eligibility criteria provided in the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for recognition and issuance of Renewable Energy Certificate for Renewable Energy Generation) Regulations, 2010.

(c) and (d) No Sir, REC norms are uniformly applicable to eligible power generating plants based on renewable energy.