

(a) whether there is any proposal to make it mandatory to set up solar powered street lights to lit public places where the people throng in large numbers like bus stations, commercial places, markets and also in areas where the streets were lonely to reduce dependency on grid and also to promote tapping clean sources of energy; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The investment required to provide solar powered street lights to lit public places in one go will be very high and grid power is still cheaper than solar power. The Government is encouraging use of solar power through various schemes and incentives especially in areas where grid power is not available.

Fall in wind power capacity addition

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

(a) whether installation of wind power capacity in the country during the first six months of the current financial year has fallen by 40 percent compared with capacity addition in the same period during the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the fall has been attributed mainly to the removal of two key incentives that were available to those who put up wind mills, accelerated depreciation and generation based incentives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A wind power capacity of 1403 MW was installed in the country during April-September, 2011 whereas a capacity of 839 MW has been installed during the same period of current financial year. The capacity installed during April-September, 2012 is 59.8% of the capacity installed during corresponding period of last financial year.

(c) and (d) Capacity addition in the wind power sector in any particular region in any period of time is dependent on a number of factors including the investment climate, macro-economic situation and the overall outlook for the sector including the incentives announced by the authorities from time to time. Therefore, it is not possible to explain the change in figures for installed capacity by any one factor.

Comparison of temples and toilets

431. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent remarks "Toilets more important in India than temples" made by the Minister have irked many people;

(b) whether it is a fact that it makes little sense to compare temples and toilets; and

(c) what measures Government is taking to sooth feelings of those who visit temples?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development have not received any report in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rural roads in Bihar

†432. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the length of kutchha roads in villages in Bihar in Kilometer and target for making them pakka; and

(b) the details of amount provided by the Central Government, under different heads, for the construction of rural roads during the last five years along with the amount spent, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.