modules has increased from about 200 MW and 650 MW to 1000 MW and 2000 MW respectively. However, recently there have been reports in media of some of manufacturers facing difficulties in operating their plants to full capacity in the absence of adequate orders resulting from intense cost competition with suppliers of imported cells/modules.

(b) to (d) One of the important objectives of the JNNSM is to promote domestic manufacturing in solar energy sector and certain domestic content requirements were made mandatory in various schemes of JNNSM Phase-I. The Government has also extended the benefits of excise duty exemption on finished products and of concessional customs duty on raw materials and equipment required for manufacturing, to encourage domestic industry.

On the other hand, from the electricity consumer's interest point of view, another objective of the JNNSM is to also progressively reduce the cost of solar power. This can be achieved through continuous research as well as through induction of latest, state-of-art technologies. In this regard, besides increased support to research projects, benefits of concessional customs duty is being provided for imports of the finished solar products/equipments also.

(e) Does not arise.

Development of solar thermal power plants

1496. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the development of solar thermal power plants in the country is in line with the targets envisaged in the National Solar Mission and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the development is facing delays and barriers and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is planning to take any initiatives to address the issues creating delays/barriers and if so, how?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) Phase-I ending 31st March, 2013 a target of 1100 MW grid connected solar power was envisaged but separate targets for different technologies (solar thermal or solar

photovoltaic) were not set. However, a capacity of 500 MW was later been earmarked for solar thermal power plants and 10 such plants were selected under different schemes, with different completion schedules as under:

Technology/ Scheme	No./capacity of projects	Completion schedule
ST/Migration	3 nos./30 MW	Feb., 2013
ST/Batch-I	7 nos./470 MW	May, 2013

(b) With regard to the projects under migration scheme 2 projects of 20 MW aggregate capacity did not get completed within approved schedule and stand cancelled while third project was commissioned at part capacity and the developer has not shown interest in commissioning the balance capacity. The remaining 7 projects under Batch-I still have time for completion till May, 2013 (without payment of penalties) and are in various stages of construction.

(c) Requests have been received from developers for time extension.

Subsidy to bio-gas plants

1497. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:
SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) why the Ministry is not considering to grant subsidy once again on KVIC Model of the bio-gas production, as currently no subsidy is provided to this model, due to the fact that production of more environment friendly energy from new and renewable sources are restricted;

(b) whether Central Government is going to restore the subsidy once again to this model; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy continues to provide subsidy for setting up of biogas plants of approved models, including KVIC model, as per the norms of the scheme of National Biogas and Manure Management Programme.