

**Potential of solar and wind power**

1501. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the potential of solar power in the country;
- (b) the potential of wind power in Himachal Pradesh; and
- (c) the special incentives available to hill States for popularizing solar and wind energy?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) The potential for solar power has been estimated for most parts of the country at around 30-50 MW per square kilometer of open, shadow free area covered with solar panels /collectors.

(b) Wind power potential of 20 MW at 50 meter height has been estimated in Himachal Pradesh.

(c) The government is providing several financial and fiscal incentives to promote setting up of solar and wind power projects throughout the country, including the hill States. These include concessional/nil customs and excise duties on specified equipments, components and materials, accelerated depreciation and preferential feed-in-tariffs/generation based incentive for grid connected projects, which depend upon project capacity and category.

In case of off-grid solar power plants/systems installed by government institutions/organizations in North-Eastern States, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and border districts, Government is providing capital subsidy up to 90% of the benchmark cost of the systems upto 100 kW. For off-grid wind power plants, there is no special incentive for hill States.

**Solar energy units in agricultural usage**

1502. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the efficiency of solar energy units in agricultural usage and its adaptation by the farmers has been on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;