

Assessment of solar energy potential

*167. SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the potential of grid-fed solar energy prospects in Ladakh area;
- (b) which other State in the country has abundance of land for solar energy (Grid) that has been surveyed; and
- (c) the progress made in that field and the details of constraints being faced?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) The Government has initiated a comprehensive programme to augment solar radiation resource assessment in the country including Ladakh area. In Phase-I of this programme, one Solar Radiation Monitoring Station has been established at Leh through Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai. The data from various stations is transmitted to a central server maintained at C-WET and is made available to various stakeholders after carrying out quality checks. As per data recorded through one of such stations, the peak value of solar radiation at Leh reaches upto 7 kilowatt hour per day per square metre of area which is quite high as compared to other locations in the country. However no assessment of the potential of grid fed solar energy in Ladakh area has been carried out taking into account availability of land area.

(b) and (c) As indicated by solar radiation data available for various parts of the country, several States, especially the Western States viz. Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, and some parts of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh have very good potential of setting up grid connected solar power projects in the country. However, a comprehensive survey of land for setting up of solar projects, has not been carried out in any state.

Setting up of foreign educational institutes

†*168. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has completed all the formalities for setting up of educational institutes by foreign institutions in the country, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any instructions have been issued about financial gains by these foreign institutions as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the heads under which above earnings would be utilized by foreign institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir. The Government has introduced the Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010 in Parliament on 3rd May, 2010.

(b) and (c) Education is a not-for-profit activity in India as per law of the land. Thus no profits can be generated or repatriated. Any surplus that is generated has to be utilized only for the improvement of education and facilities and infrastructure in the institution.

The Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010 provides under clause 5 (3) that; “No part of the surplus in revenue generated in India by such Foreign Education Provider, after meeting all expenditure in regard to its operations in India, shall be invested for any purpose other than for the growth and development of the educational institutions established by it in India.”

Water crisis in Delhi

†*169.SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to the Central Ground Water Board, the water level has depleted to an alarming level in Delhi's 93 percent area;

(b) whether water is not worth drinking in many areas situated on the bank of river Yamuna;

(c) the frequency of water level testing in the State during the last three years and the findings thereof;

(d) whether the National Water Commission has suggested to declare water as a national asset; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.