

(b) Four laning from Km. 10.0 to 23/2 of Hyderabad-Bangalore section and Km. 464/0 to Km. 474/0 of Nagpur-Hyderabad section is pending since long time, termination Notice issued to Contractor on 24.10.2011 due to poor progress. The Contractor approached Hon'ble Supreme Court and it has been directed to execute the balance works through third party. Finally, to complete the balance work, short term tenders have been called, bids have been received.

(c) Suryapet-Kodad (32 Km. away from Khammam)- Vijayawada section of NH-9 (New NH-65) and Vijayawada-Rajahmundry section of NH-16 has already been four-laned. New NH-365A from Kodad to Karvi declared recently in March 2014 is passing through Khammam.

Promotion of solar thermal technology

*379. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether solar thermal plants are more suitable as they can store energy for usage during the non-availability of sunlight;

(b) if so, why solar thermal technology has not been promoted in the country;

(c) whether Government plans to give incentives to boost the generation of solar thermal electricity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Solar Thermal plants are more suitable than Solar PV plants for large-scale power generation. This is so because Solar Thermal plants equipped with thermal energy storage can provide dispatchable energy supply – that is, their power output can be adjusted based on grid demand, power can be supplied when sun is not shining; and, at large-scale, the storage of thermal energy (heat) is easier and more efficient than that of electricity. Also, hybridization with other fuels is possible.

(b) The Government has been promoting Solar Thermal technology under National Solar Mission (NSM). However, its deployment has been limited due to its high capital cost and large land area requirement and long duration required for project completion.

(c) and (d) The Government is already incentivizing the setting up of solar thermal projects allotted to private developers under National Solar Mission Phase-I. Preferential tariffs of ₹15.31/unit (CERC benchmark tariff for year 2010-11) for 3 nos. of such

projects of total 30 MW capacity and of ₹10.49-12.24/unit as determined through a reverse bidding process for 7 nos. of such projects of total 470 MW capacity, totaling 500 MW have been approved in the year 2010-11. Out of these, only one plant of 50MW capacity set up by M/s. Godawari Green Energy Ltd. at Village - Nokh, Tehsil - Pokhran, District - Jaisalmer, Rajasthan has achieved commercial operation till date. This plant was commissioned on 19/06/2013 and the power generated is being purchased by the NTPC Vidyut Vyapaar Nigam Limited at a preferential tariff of ₹12.20/unit.

Fiscal incentives to varying degrees available for such projects include concessional/nil customs and excise duty for major equipment/ materials required for initial setting up of the plants and 10-years tax holiday on income generated through sale of power generated from the plants.

Ports in Gujarat

†*380. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Government and private ports in the country;
- (b) out of them, the number of public and private ports in Gujarat;
- (c) the number of new private ports for which applications have been received during 2013-14; and
- (d) the number of ports out of them which have been given permission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) There are 12 Major Ports in the country, including Kandla Port in the State of Gujarat, which are under the control of the Central Government and are Government owned Ports. As per Section 3 (9) the Indian Ports Act, 1908, the respective State Governments have jurisdiction over Ports other than Major Ports which are also called Non-Major Ports. There are 200 such Non-Major Ports which are under the State Governments, out of which some are given for development on Private Public Partnership basis. Out of the 200 Ports, 42 Non-Major Ports are in the State of Gujarat.

(c) and (d) Since the Non-Major Ports are under the jurisdiction of the respective State Governments, the information is not available with the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.