

**Tapping of solar energy**

50. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tapping of solar energy in the country is very dismal, inspite of huge potential of solar energy, which is very environment friendly;

(b) if so, the reasons for under achievement in this regard;

(c) whether Government has identified any grey areas which hamper the tapping of potential energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Tapping of solar energy in the country is very small (2647 MW as on 31.05.2014) as compared to the available potential of 30-50 MW /sq. km of shadow free open area.

(b) This cannot be treated as under achievement because the exploitation of solar energy in a big way has started only four years ago with the launch of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission. Solar energy continues to be expensive and therefore requires heavy investments. Solar energy has intermittent nature thereby making it difficult to integrate in the grid.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Lack of public awareness, high cost of generation and limitations of existing power evacuation and transmission networks have been identified as main hindering factors in tapping of optimal solar energy potential across the country.

**Acceleration of solar energy programme**

51. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to accelerate the solar energy programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost of maintenance of solar energy equipment is very high; and

(d) if so, what facilities Government is providing to lower the maintenance cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under Phase-II of JNNSM, 750 MW projects have been allocated with VGF support. A 1500 MW scheme, with provision of bundling solar power with thermal power, is being developed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Boosting of solar power**

52. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Norway is assisting India in boosting solar power in the country;

(b) whether Norway proposes to cover maximum villages under rural electrification with wind energy;

(c) the status of rural electrification under solar system in Odisha and other under-developed States; and

(d) the action plan to exploit solar power potential in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes Sir, Norway has supported a project to electrify 28 villages with solar Mini-grid plants in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand & Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The status of remote village electrification from solar PV systems in Odisha and other States of the country is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) Under Off-grid and decentralized solar applications scheme of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, the Ministry provides 30% capital subsidy which ranges from ₹ 27/- per Wp to ₹ 135/- per Wp for installation of solar PV systems and power plants.

In special category States *viz.* North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Ministry provides 90% capital subsidy which ranges from ₹ 81/- Wp to ₹ 405/- per Wp for Government organizations (Not for commercial organizations and corporations).

Ministry is supporting State Governments in these states to exploit solar potential.