

Power generation through solar energy

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an urgent need to increase power generation through solar energy; and

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to install more and more solar power generation units in the country?

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

(b) The Government is taking the following major steps to encourage the installation of solar power generation units in the country:

- National Solar Mission is being implemented to give a boost to utilization of solar energy for power generation as well as direct thermal energy applications in the country, with a long-term goal of adding 20,000 MW of grid-connected solar power by 2022, to be achieved in 3 phases (1st phase up to 2012-13, 2nd phase from 2013 to 2017 and the 3rd phase from 2017 to 2022).
- An enabling policy and regulatory environment is being created through measures like Solar specific RPOs under National Tariff Policy [0.25% in Phase 1 (2013) to increase to 3% by 2022], State specific Solar Policies and RPO targets, and REC mechanism. Efforts are being made to ensure compliance by DISCOMs and obligated entities.
- Fiscal and financial incentives in the form of accelerated depreciation, concessional/ nil customs and excise duties, preferential tariffs and generation based incentives are being provided to improve the viability of the solar power generation units.
- Capital subsidy is being provided for off-grid/ decentralized solar power generation systems.
- A scheme for setting up Grid-connected Solar PV Power projects of 750 MW aggregate capacity with Viability Gap Funding from NCEF is being implemented. Another scheme for setting up of 1,500 MW of Grid-connected

Solar PV Power projects under mechanism of Bundling with Unallocated Coal based Thermal Power is being formulated.

- A scheme for promotion of grid-connected roof-top PV systems with a provision for 30% subsidy has also been formulated.
- Solar Parks are being planned in various parts of the country to achieve cost reductions of solar power generation units through utilization of common infrastructure.

Accidents due to faulty design of Volvo buses

*83. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the spate of accidents involving Volvo buses in the country during the last one year or so;

(b) whether Ministry is also aware that the investigation made by CID of Andhra Pradesh revealed that there is a flaw in the design of these buses;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry would direct the company to change the design of its buses or ban them in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) As per the information received by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, there was an accident involving a Volvo bus in Andhra Pradesh on 30th October, 2013 resulting in death of 45 persons due to burning. Another accident involving a Volvo bus took place in Karnataka on 14th November, 2013, resulting in death of seven persons.

(b) to (d) The accident that took place at Palem, near Kothakota, Mahabubnagar District on Bangalore-Hyderabad Highway was investigated by the Crime Branch, CID, Andhra Pradesh. A copy of the report dated 19.06.2014 (without Annexures) of CID, Telangana, was received from Government of Telangana, (Police Department) on 10th July, 2014. The same is under examination.

Action Plan for continuous and clean flow of river Ganga

†*84. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.