

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) 1794 villages of Odisha were covered with solar street lights.

(b) The Ministry does not allocate targets for installation of Solar Power systems/plants. The States submit their proposals to the Ministry as per their requirements. The Ministry considers the proposals and if found suitable as per the guidelines of the Off-grid programme, projects are sanctioned, subject to availability of funds.

(c) The Ministry has allocated 2000 numbers of Solar Water Pumping Systems to Odisha for providing drinking water facilities in the State for the year 2014-15 in remote/tribal/SC/ST dominated habitations/irregular/unelectrified habitations etc.

Promotion of solar energy in low radiation States

3218. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of initiatives taken by Government to promote solar energy in low radiation States; and

(b) the details of action taken to make solar energy affordable to low income and middle income groups in metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The Government is promoting solar energy in both grid-connected and off-grid modes all over the country including low radiation States.

- 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.
- A scheme for promotion of grid-connected roof-top PV systems with a provision for 30% subsidy is being implemented.
- Schemes for setting up grid-connected solar PV power projects with mechanisms like 'Bundling with unallocated coal based thermal power' (3000 MW) and 'Viability Gap Funding from National Clean Energy Fund' (2000) MW are being planned.

- 50 MW canal-top and 50 MW canal-bank solar PV projects are also being implemented.
- For off-grid solar power, against a target of 2,000 MW by 2022 envisaged in National Solar Mission (NSM), projects aggregating to 357.77 MW were sanctioned under NSM till Oct., 2014. Projects aggregating more than 174.1 MWp capacities have been set up since 1st April, 2010.
- Government is providing 30% capital subsidy for off-grid/decentralized solar power generation systems.
- Apart from above measures, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy pursues initiatives like Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) enforcement with Ministry of Power, concessional customs and excise duties for solar energy with Ministry of Corporate Affairs, funds for viability gap funding for solar projects with Ministry of Finance.

(b) Government is providing 30% capital subsidy for off-grid/decentralized solar power generation systems and rooftop solar photovoltaic systems to make solar energy affordable.

Potential of small hydro power projects

3219.SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the estimated potential for power generation in the country from small hydro power projects up to 25 MW station capacities is around 15,000 MW;
- (b) whether Government has created a database of potential sites for small hydro power projects;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the small hydro power generation potential of Meghalaya from rivulets/ streams; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Estimated potential for power generation in the country from small hydro power projects up to 25 MW station capacities is about 20,000 MW.

(b) Yes, Sir, a data-base has been created for 6474 potential small hydro sites with an aggregate capacity of 19,749 MW.