- Waiver of wheeling charges on Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS).
- Fiscal incentives like custom duty concessions, excise duty exemptions, 10 year income tax holiday and incentives from States like stamp duty waiver, reduced/nil wheeling charges, etc. to enable solar power developers to offer lower tariffs.

Devolution of powers to panchayats

1516. SHRI SANJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has increased its efforts to promote devolution of powers from States to Panchayats and if so, the details in this regard; and

(b) how far Panchayats in Maharashtra have been benefited by these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) and (b) As per the Constitutional provisions State Governments are charged with the responsibility of devolution of powers to the Panchayats. The Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) supports State Governments to strengthen their Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), thereby improving functional devolution. A National Workshop on Own Sources of Revenue (OSR) of Panchayats was held by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) to promote increased financial devolution to Gram Panchayats to raise their own revenue through tax and non tax measures. MoPR also annually assess the extent of devolution of powers and authority to PRIs by States through an independent study, which ranks States on a Panchayat Devolution Index (PDI). The study for 2014-15 was conducted by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). Maharashtra ranked 4th among States on overall PDI and was appreciated with 'citation' conferred by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 24th April, 2015, the National Panchayati Raj Day.

Revival of State of Panchayats report

1517. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to revive the biennial State of Panchayats report;

(b) if so, whether Government itself would prepare the report and if not, the institution to which this would be entrusted;