

(b) A fund of ₹ 1943 crore (Budget Estimate) has been allocated for various programmes relating to solar for the year 2015-16.

(c) MNRE through SECI has floated the tender for implementing 500 MW grid connected solar power projects in Maharashtra. Further, MNRE has sanctioned a 500 MW solar park at Sakri, Dist. Dhule, Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra has reported that it has declared the comprehensive RE Policy 2015 on 20th July, 2015 with target of 14400 MW from RE in next five years. In this policy, target for Solar power is fixed at 7500 MW. Further, Maharashtra has received four proposals aggregating to 33 MW under this policy and same have been forwarded to Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd. (MSETCL) for Seeking technical feasibility report for grid connectivity recommendation.

(d) The target of 1,00,000 MW capacity is proposed to be achieved through deployment of 40,000 MW of Rooftop Solar Projects and 60,000 MW Medium and Large Scale Solar projects. Government supports development of solar power through fiscal and promotional incentives as given below:-

- capital and/or interest subsidy,
- tax holiday on the earnings for 10 years,
- generation based incentive,
- accelerated depreciation,
- viability gap funding (VGF),
- financing solar rooftop systems as part of home loan,
- concessional excise and custom duties,
- preferential tariff for power generation from renewables, and
- Foreign direct investment up to 100 per cent under the automatic route.

In addition power is offered at lower tariff through schemes like bundling with thermal power and VGF.

Tweaking of solar bidding framework

1656. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any new measures to address the energy crunch in the country;

(b) if so the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a plan for tweaking the Solar Bidding Framework by introducing different tariffs for different blocks of years, utilizing the international drop in module prices to provide the best tariff to the power procurers, moving from generation based Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) to capacity-based like conventional power; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To address the energy shortage as well as to increase the installed capacity of renewable power in the country, the Government has set a target of 175 GW of renewable power capacity by year 2022. This includes 100 GW of solar-power, 60 GW of wind-power, 10 GW of bio-power and 5 GW of small hydro-power.

(c) and (d) The present system of signing Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for 25 years at tariffs determined by the concerned electricity regulatory commission or discovered through transparent competitive bidding process, is working well and hence currently, there is no proposal under consideration for tweaking the Solar Bidding Framework by introducing different tariffs for different blocks of years.

Tapping of geothermal energy

1657. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiatives to tap geothermal energy as source of power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of present status of geothermal energy generation; and

(e) the details of targets, achievements and budget spent on these schemes during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Geothermal electricity generation is site and technology specific and India is in region of Low Geothermal Potential. However, MNRE has supported surveys and scientific investigation in Geothermal energy in Puga (J&K), Tattapani and various other potential geothermal sites by National Geo-physical research Institute (NGRI), Geological Survey of India (GSI), Central Electricity Authority