

Programmes for solar city, Puducherry

63. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Puducherry is one of the solar cities identified by the Ministry;

(b) if so, the programmes going to be undertaken there; and

(c) what is the time-frame given to complete the projects there?

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

(b) The main objective of the Solar City is to reduce the fossil fuel based energy consumption by 10% through a combination of energy efficiency measures and enhancing supply from renewable energy sources. The activities to be undertaken in the solar city are preparation of Master Plans, setting up of solar city cells and stakeholders committee, organization of promotional activities and installation of renewable energy projects.

(c) The time-frame given to complete the projects in the above solar city is three years.

Encouragement of renewable energy

†64. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to encourage renewable energy;

(b) if so, whether Government has considered to take any special step in this regard, till date; and

(c) 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) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that Government is encouraging the promotion of renewable energy in the country.

(b) and (c) Various policy measures have been initiated and special steps taken in addition to providing financial support to various schemes being implemented by the Ministry for achieving the target of renewable energy capacity to 175 GW by 2022. These include, *inter alia*, amendments in the Tariff Policy for strong

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.