

(b) MoEF and CC as part of UNEP-GEF Phase-II Biosafety Project organized a series of Capacity Building Workshops for various stakeholders like Scientists, Regulators, State Government Officials, Media Professionals, Customs Officials, Plant Quarantine Officials, Farmers, Students etc. which is a continuous process. Outreach materials like Biosafety Resource Kit consisting of five booklets and Bioresource Catalogue consisting of primers, brochures, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) etc. in eight regional languages namely Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, Gujarati and Bengali have been prepared and widely circulated for creating wider awareness among various stakeholders.

(c) About 20 Companies/Public Sector Institutions have applied for permissions related to biosafety research level confined field trials of different crops and traits. Many of these trials could not be conducted due to non-issue of No Objection Certificate from State Governments.

#### **Status of Kutku Dam at Lohardaga, Jharkhand**

†\*134. SHRI GOPAL NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of Kutku Dam at Lohardaga in Jharkhand;
- (b) whether Government is aware that the dam is complete but it is of no use due to absence of sluice gates and if so, by when the work would be completed;
- (c) the capacity of the dam and the expected benefits to be availed by farmers of that region;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Government is incurring losses due to the delay; and
- (e) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) Kutku Dam is a component of North Koel Project and is situated at village Mandal. About 90% of the construction work is completed. However the crest gates and sluice gates could not be installed due to objection from Forest Department. Hence, at present no storage is possible in the dam.

(b) Yes. The Government is aware that the dam is not able to serve its purpose due to the absence of gates. After a review by the Central Government on 11th August 2016, the Government of Jharkhand has been asked to prepare the revised project report for salvaging existing infrastructure without causing submergence to the core Tiger area coming under the reservoir.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) to (e) The live storage of Kutku Dam at original Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 367.28 m was 960.00 Million Cubic Meter (MCM) and the expected irrigation benefit is for 1.046 lakh hectare area. In the revised project scenario, with ponding level (FRL) restricted to 341.00 m, live storage is reduced to 180 MCM and corresponding expected irrigation benefit is reduced to 0.72 lakh hectare. The hydropower generation benefits on account of the reduced ponding level is also reduced. The Government of Jharkhand is preparing the proposal for obtaining necessary clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act and Wildlife (Protection) Act expeditiously.

#### **Concession on solar energy**

\*135. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of concessions offered to households opting for solar energy for domestic use;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to change the financing guidelines for setting up of rooftop and stand-alone small grid-connected power plants; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is providing Central Financial Assistance (CFA) up to 30% of benchmark/project cost for the General Category States/UTs and up to 70% of benchmark/project cost of Special Category States/UTs and North Eastern States including Sikkim and Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands for installation of grid connected solar rooftop projects in residential, institutional and social sector for capacity between 1 kWp and 500 kWp per project/system. Under stand alone solar power plants with battery backup and a capacity of 3 kWp is eligible for the individual households. The applicable CFA is 30% throughout the country.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to change the financing guidelines for setting up of rooftop and stand-alone small grid connected power plants at present.

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#### **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

##### **Insulation of UMPPs from fluctuation in prices of imported coal**

1281. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to insulate Ultra Mega Power Plants (UMPPs) from steep fluctuations in prices of imported coal;