

(b) whether Government has considered a measure to install solar panels over irrigation canals and other water bodies to reduce issues relating to land acquisition for establishment of solar panels and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) In order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and to utilise the maximum solar potential, the Government has revised the target from 20,000 MW to 1,00,000 MW of solar installation by 2022 for which the Government has launched several schemes for promotion of solar energy in the country to achieve this target. The Government is promoting solar energy through fiscal and promotional incentives such as 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 etc.

(b) Government has been implementing a scheme “Pilot-cum-Demonstration Project for Development of Grid-connected Solar PV Power Plants on Canal-banks and Canal-tops” under National Solar Mission (NSM) with an objective of achieving gainful utilisation of the unutilised area on top of canals and also the vacant land along the banks of canals wherever available. Under the scheme, 100 MW Solar power projects (50 MW each for Canal Top and Canal Bank) have been sanctioned.

Indigenous manufacturing of solar power equipments

4233. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special plans Government has formulated to promote competitive manufacturing of equipment required for solar power generation indigenously to reduce dependence on imports; and

(b) the names of the major global manufacturers which have shown interest in setting up of solar equipment manufacturing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Indigenous manufacturing of an equipment required for solar power generation is being promoted by Government of India, through Special Incentive Package Scheme (SIPS)/ Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS). The scheme provides for mainly:

- (i) 20-25% subsidy for investments in capital expenditure for setting up of electronic manufacturing facility.

- (ii) Reimbursement of CVD/excise for capital equipment for the units outside Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

The incentives are available for 44 categories of electronic products and product components including Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) (Polysilicon, Ingots and/or Wafers, Cells, Modules/Panels). Units across the value chain starting from raw materials to assembly, testing, and packaging of these product categories are included.

(b) While the Government has been engaging with the industry for encouraging investments in solar equipment manufacturing, no formal proposal from major global manufacturers, has been received in this regard.

National Plan for technical assistance under RGSA

4234. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set any goals with suitable timelines to achieve the objectives under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme and if so, the details there-of;

(b) the details of activities, including technical assistance provided to Panchayats in West Bengal during the last year; and

(c) the details of funds sanctioned and released for such activities, State-wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Panchayati Raj implemented the scheme of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) from 2012-13 to 2015-16 under which funds were provided to States for strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). A new restructured scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) aims at strengthening of PRIs by way of capacity building of the PRIs and its functionaries, through more use of technology and handholding some Panchayats as peer learning centres.

During 2016-17, the funds to the States were provided for Capacity Building of Panchayats, out of the budgetary provision of Capacity Building- Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (CB-PSA), a sub-scheme of to be restructured scheme of RGSA.

Details of activities including technical assistance for which funds were sanctioned to State of West Bengal during the last year under RGSA is as follows: