

(c) The Ministry is implementing various programmes/schemes and providing central financial assistance for setting up grid interactive renewable power projects. In addition, fiscal incentives and accelerated depreciation are also available for setting up of grid interactive power projects.

**Seminar of Energy Ministers of States**

2303. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a seminar of Energy Ministers of States held at Delhi in June the Central Government had announced that all the 25 thousand villages in remote and far flung areas of the country will be energized through non-conventional energy sources, solar lanterns will be supplied free in these villages, more non-conventional energy centres will be set up throughout the country and solar energy equipments selling outlets will be set up in each district;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the schemes proposed to be implemented to achieve the above goals; and

(c) the conclusions derived in this seminar and recommendation made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) A Conference of Ministers of Power and Renewable Energy was organized by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources of June 29, 2004 at New Delhi to discuss about implementation of renewable energy programmes in the States. The Ministry's Programme for electrification of remote villages through non-conventional energy sources being implemented in various States was discussed. About 25,000 remote villages have been identified in 24 States. The target for the 10th Plan is to electrify 5000 remote villages. A total of 1738 remote villages have so far been electrified and projects are under implementation in another 1356 villages.

Re-introduction of Central subsidy for solar lanterns is planned for which the modalities are to be worked out. The proposal for setting up of Renewable Energy Centres for awareness creation, demonstration and training will be developed and finalized after getting the views of the State Government and their consent for providing land for these Centres. About 30 acres of land will be required for this purpose.

It is planned to support the establishment of outlets in all the districts for sale for renewable energy devices under the 'Aditya' Solar Shops Scheme of the Ministry. 48 Aditya Solar Shops have been established so far and another 20 Shops are being set up.

(c) The Conference supported the new initiatives proposed by the Ministry and recommended their implementation. These include the development of a Village Energy Security Programme based on renewable energy, including electrification; 20th August to be observed as Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Divas; setting up of District Advisory Committee for renewable energy in each district; and, setting up of Renewable Energy Centres in every State. Necessary action has been taken to implement these recommendations. Certain other suggestions also emerged from the Conference which will be suitably incorporated in various schemes, where necessary.

#### **Manufacturing bio-fuel from forest and agriculture waste**

2304. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA; Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some prominent Engineering Colleges, especially from the Tribal areas, have approached the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources to sanction funds for conducting schemes like manufacturing of Bio-fuel from forest waste and agricultural waste or from edible and non-edible oils and spreading awareness of the same in tribal and backward areas;

(b) if so, which are those Engineering Colleges, especially in Vidharbha region of Maharashtra;

(c) whether the funds for the same have been allotted; and

(d) if not, what is the status of such requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) A request has been received on behalf of Jawaharlal Darda Institute of Engineering and Technology, Yavatmal, Maharashtra regarding support for Awareness Programme on Manufacturing of bio-diesel and research on