

cut down the drop-out rates at all the levels among students belonging to minority communities. Findings of the report are available on the website of MoMA at www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

As per its findings, the Government has taken many initiatives to increase the student enrolment and reduce the drop-out rates. Incentives taken by the Government such as Mid-day Meal scheme, free text books, free uniform and scholarships all together have played a positive role in enhancing the enrolment of children and also increasing their retention.

(d) to (f) The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), a society working under the aegis of MoMA, had constituted a Committee on the establishment of educational institutions for minorities. The said committee submitted its report to the General Body of MAEF on 06.07.2017. The Committee, in its report, has recommended a three-tier pyramid structure of educational institutions.

MAEF has adopted the Committee's report and initiated efforts for the implementation of committee's recommendations. However, during the last 4 years, 53 ITIs, 163 Girls' Hostels, 925 School Buildings, 16,411 Additional Classrooms, 11 Degree Colleges, 67 Gurukul-type Residential Schools, 469 Innovative Teaching Aids for Classrooms, 340 Sadbhav Mandaps (Multi-purpose Community Centres), etc., have been created under the erstwhile Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP).

State of development of renewable energy

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

(a) whether it is a fact that threats from impending safeguard duty, poor policy environment and weak financial condition of DISCOMS are the biggest challenges the sector is facing at present;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these were the primary factors which pushed India down by two spots to 4th rank in the global renewable energy country attractive index;

(c) whether the lowest ever solar tariff in India is ₹2.44 per unit, discovered in May, 2017 at the reverse auctions for solar plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) and (b) In the year 2016-17, aggregate capacity of around 11,322 MW of renewable energy was installed in the country, and in year 2017-18, aggregate capacity of around 11,887 MW was installed. Thus, renewable energy installations in the country are progressively increasing and do not appear to be facing any major challenges at present. There is no reliable formal institution which carries out rankings on renewable energy country attractive index. However, there are private agencies who carry out such rankings. The renewable energy sector in India is consistently growing and continues to remain attractive for investors from across the world.

(c) and (d) Solar tariffs in India saw the lowest ever level of ₹2.44 per unit in reverse auctions carried out by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) in May 2017, for 200 MW and again in July, 2018, for 600 MW.

Tariff quotes of renewable energy

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

(a) whether most of the recent renewable energy auctions were won by companies with foreign backed capital and with interest rates rising and the end of quantitative easing by the US, experts anticipated cost to rise, potentially turning the low tariff quotes to become unsustainable;

(b) whether it is a fact that the country's renewable energy capacity stood at 69,685 MW at the end of 2017-18; and

(c) whether the target is to achieve 175 GW by financial year 2022-23 which would require about US \$125 billion-US \$ 87.5 billion debt and the remaining as equity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) Renewable energy sector in India is attracting companies from across the world. However, as at the stage of auction, the details regarding their fund tie-up for the project are not required to be submitted, this ministry has no information about the capital structure/composition of the companies participating in the renewable energy auctions. The solar tariffs in India saw the lowest ever level of ₹2.44 per unit in reverse auctions for solar power carried out by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) in May 2017 and again in July, 2018, thereby indicating the absence of any major challenges to low solar tariffs in India.