for distribution of 5 lakh solar study lamps in various States was sanctioned by the Ministry in May, 2016.

So far a total of 3.06 lakh solar study lamps have been distributed and 927 persons including 360 women have been trained-for local assembly and repair of the solar study lamp in the State of Rajasthan under these schemes.

'Surya Mitra' is a separate skill development programme of the MNRE for imparting training in the field of solar energy for installation and repair and maintenance of solar power systems.

(c) and (d) A new project for distribution of 70 lakh solar study lamps in the States of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh was sanctioned by the MNRE in December, 2016 which is currently under implementation.

Development of solar parks/ultra mega solar projects

1274. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of solar parks and ultra-mega solar projects developed since 2016;

(b) the number of solar PV Power Plants on Canal Banks/Canal Tops developed since 2016;

(c) whether the 1000 MW of Grid-Connected Solar PV Power Projects by Central Public Sector Undertakings with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) have been implemented; and

(d) if so, how many such projects have been developed since 2016-17?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) Two Solar parks namely Kurnool solar park (1000 MW) in Andhra Pradesh and Bhadla-II solar park (680 MW) in Rajasthan have been fully developed since 2016. In addition, Ananthapurumu solar park (1500 MW) in Andhra Pradesh, Kasargod solar park (200 MW) in Kerala, Neemuch-Mandsaur (700 MW) solar park in Madhya Pradesh, Pavagada solar park (2000 MW) in Karnataka have been partially developed.

(b) 8 numbers of Canal Bank Solar PV Projects of 50 MW capacity and 6 numbers of Canal-Top Solar PV Projects of 19 MW capacity have been commissioned since 2016.

(c) and (d) Under the scheme for setting up of 1000 MW of Grid-connected Solar PV projects by Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and Government of India Organisations with Viability Gap Funding (VGF), 9 Solar PV projects with around 809 MW capacity have been commissioned since 2016.

Increase in prices of electricity

1275. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spot market power prices and Indian Electricity Exchange prices have risen unexpectedly high in the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether the production from wind and hydropower plants have gone down leading to decline in use of more renewable sources to produce electricity;

(d) if so, the reasons for the above decreased production; and

(e) how these increased prices are affecting the consumers and what measures are taken by Government to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) and (b) There are two power exchanges in India *i.e.* Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) and Power Exchange India Limited (PXIL), where electricity is being traded. The electricity prices are discovered on Day Ahead Market (DAM) of these power exchanges in every 15 minutes time block. These prices fluctuate in every time block, leading to fluctuations in a day, depending upon the electricity demand and supply position in the market at any given point in time.

The weighted average prices on DAM of these power exchanges during the last three years are as under:

Year	Price on IEX (₹/kWh)	Price on PXIL (₹/kWh)
2014-15	3.49	3.09
2015-16	2.72	2.66
2016-17	2.48	2.56