

in Hindi, English, Urdu and other regional languages. In order to directly reach out to the public especially minority communities and spread awareness among them, 'Progress Panchayats' are organized in various places. Regional Coordination and Review Conferences are also held with State Governments from time to time where, *inter alia*, information about the Ministry's schemes is provided. In addition, outdoor publicity is also being done by organizing 'Hunar Haat'. Recently, Hunar Haats have been organized at (i) India International Trade Fair 2016, 2017 and 2018, (ii) Baba Khark Singh Marg, New Delhi in February, 2017 and 2018, (iii) Puducherry in September, 2017, and October, 2018, (iv) Allahabad in September, 2018, and (v) Mumbai in January, 2018 and December, 2018, to further promote traditional crafts/arts, generate employment and strengthen their market linkages.

Centre's share in Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme

†2214. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received a proposal from Madhya Pradesh for enhancing the Centre's share in Post-matric Scholarship Scheme; and

(b) if so, by when the amount would be enhanced and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI):

(a) The Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for students belonging to the minority minorities is a Central Sector Scheme and 100% of funds for scholarship amount is disbursed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. As such, no proposal has been received from the Madhya Pradesh Government with respect to enhancing the Central share in the scheme.

(b) Question does not arise.

Subsidy for solar products manufacturers

2215. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given any subsidy or implemented any scheme in order to incentivise the manufacturing of solar energy products;

(b) whether Government has provided any scheme in order to reduce the cost and insurance for solar energy products; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has considered including solar energy in Priority Sector Lending norms for banking institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) Domestic manufacturing of solar cells and panels in India is being supported by the Government of India through Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The scheme, *inter alia*, provides for:—

- (i) 20-25% subsidy for investments in capital expenditure for setting up of the manufacturing facility.
- (ii) Reimbursement of countervailing Duty (CVD)/Excise Duty for capital equipment for the units outside Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Further, the solar power projects being implemented by the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) with financial support from the Government and those rooftop solar projects which are implemented with central financial assistance are mandated to source their requirement of solar cells and panels from domestic sources as per extant Guidelines, in a World Trade Organization (WTO) compliant manner.

(b) In order to make the solar energy products affordable, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is providing financial assistance as follows:

(I). Grid-connected Roof Top Solar Projects:—

Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of up to 30% of project cost/benchmark cost (whichever is lower) is being provided for installation of Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Projects in Residential, Institutional and Social sectors in General Category States and up to 70% of the project cost/benchmark cost (whichever is lower) in Special Category States (i.e. North Eastern States including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands).

For Government sector, achievement linked incentives are being provided. Subsidy/CFA is not applicable for commercial and industrial establishments in private sector.

(II). Off-Grid Solar Photovoltaic Applications:—

Item	Benchmark Cost	Central Financial Assistance (CFA)
1	2	3
Street Lights with Lead acid batteries	₹ 300/Wp:	₹ 90/Wp
Street lights with Lithium Ferro Phosphate batteries	₹ 435/Wp:	₹ 130.50/Wp

1	2	3
Power plants with 6 hours battery bank	₹ 100/Wp:	₹ 30/Wp
Solar Lamp	₹ 250/Wp:	₹ 212.50/Wp

Presently, under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's Scheme Guidelines, there is no provision for subsidy for insurance of solar energy products.

(c) As per the Reserve Bank of India's circular no. RBI/2017-18/175DCBR. BPD(PCB).Cir.No 07/09.09.002 /2017-18 dated 10.05.2018, the priority sector lending for renewable energy includes bank loans up to a limit of ₹ 15 crore to borrowers for purposes like solar based power generators, biomass based power generators, wind mills, micro-hydel plants and for non-conventional energy based public utilities viz. street lighting systems, and remote village electrification, under priority sector lending. For individual households, the loan limit is ₹ 10 lakh per borrower.

Tenders for solar energy

2216. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) date-wise details of the tenders floated by Government for solar energy since 2014 till date along with the responses received;

(b) whether Government has not been able to fetch response to solar tenders, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has redrafted the solar tenders, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government had promised to expedite solar energy in India, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) Date-wise details of tenders issued by Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) alongwith the capacity of bids received are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) No Sir. The response of the tenders for setting up of solar power projects has been encouraging. So far, SECI has issued bids for setting up of 23,540 MW capacity from Solar energy, and 1200 MW capacity from solar-wind hybrid projects. The participation of companies was lower in some recent tenders of new technologies issued by SECI viz. floating solar, solar projects linked with manufacturing facilities