

the five working groups covering coal, renewable energy and new technologies, oil and gas, civil nuclear and power and energy efficiency established under the bilateral Indo-US Energy Dialogue were discussed during the US Secretary of Energy's visit to India during March 20-22, 2007.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Wind power potential in Kerala

2845. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total wind power potential in Kerala;

(b) the percentage thereof which has been tapped;

(c) the details of action taken by Government to tap the entire potential; and

(d) the assistance given by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The wind power potential estimated in Kerala is about 875 MW.

(b) Only about 0.2% of the potential has so far been tapped in the State of Kerala.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Kerala has issued guidelines for establishment of private wind farms including development of wind farms, in private land and technical clearance for setting up of 16.95 MW wind power projects. The Government of India promotes setting up of commercial wind power projects in the country, including in the State of Kerala, by providing incentives such as financial assistance for demonstration wind power projects, concessional import duty for wind electricity generator sub-systems, excise duty exemption, ten years tax holiday on power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation, term loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and identification of more potential locations by carrying out wind resource assessment studies. This apart, preferential tariff is being provided for wind power in most of the potential States.

Electrification of villages through solar and bio-gas energy in Assam

2846. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified through solar and bio-gas energy in Assam during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have launched any scheme to provide solar or bio-gas energy to the rural areas of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) 16 remote unelectrified census villages in Assam have been provided solar photovoltaic homelighting systems under the Remote Village Electrification Programme of the Ministry, during the last three years. In addition, projects in 462 villages are under implementation. No village has been electrified in Assam using bio-gas energy.

(b) and (c) The Ministry is implementing Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme and National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP) in rural areas of various States including Assam. 45 SPV pumps, 98 streetlighting systems, 5420 home lighting systems, 541 solar lanterns and stand alone power plants of 9 KWp have been set up under Solar Photovoltaic Programme in Assam. 59942 biogas plants have been installed in the State under the NBMMP, In addition, the Ministry is also implementing test projects on Village Energy Security, in Assam among other States. A total of 15 test projects have been sanctioned to the Forest Department of the State. The test projects aim at meeting all the energy needs of a village through biomass and bio-gas energy.

(d) Does not arise.

Legislation for new and renewable energy

2847. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to enact a legislation for new and renewable energy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The existing legislative framework for power projects, including renewable power projects, provided by the Electricity Act 2003, National Electricity Policy 2005, National Tariff Policy 2006, and the National Rural Electrification Policy 2006, is presently considered adequate.

Use of municipal solid wastes for energy

2848. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps being taken to use municipal solid wastes as an alternative source of renewable energy;
- (b) whether Government propose to include usage of municipal wastes for energy as part of JNURM and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government have identified the resource agency to execute such projects on commercial scales and if so, the details thereof?