

- (b) the tweaks that have been made by SECI to revive interest in these auctions;
- (c) whether distribution companies have been refusing to sign power purchase agreements for solar energy, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether SECI will have to pay ₹40 lakh annually for every Mega Watt of solar power produced that remains unsold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) While the response to solar tenders floated by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), in general, has been good, some of the tenders have received lower capacity of bids which may be due to prevailing market conditions such as rupee depreciation, increase in cost of borrowing, introduction of safeguards duty etc.

(b) SECI conducts various rounds of consultations with project developers, financing institutions etc. in addition to the pre-bid conferences for making project bid conditions realistic. The feedback received is suitably incorporated into the tender documents to address the genuine concerns of the stakeholders to the extent possible.

(c) In general, DISCOMs are willing to sign power purchase agreements for solar energy as long as tariff is reasonable. All the quantities offered by SECI have been taken by DISCOMs and Power Sale Agreements (PSAs) are being signed by DISCOMs.

(d) Power Sale Agreement (PSA) is signed by SECI with DISCOMs before signing of Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with project developers to ensure that power produced from solar projects does not remain unsold.

#### **Potential of solar energy in Gujarat**

†256. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge potential of solar energy in the districts and areas of Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any survey has been conducted by the Ministry in this regard, if so, the outcomes of the survey; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the strategies formulated and implemented by Government for these districts based on these outcomes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) to (c) The National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), an autonomous organisation under the aegis of this Ministry, has conducted survey on the basis of land availability in different States. A solar energy potential of 35.77 GW has been estimated in the State of Gujarat.

(d) The Union Government has launched various schemes, with the details as under, for promotion of solar energy in the country including the State of Gujarat:

- (i) Solar Park Scheme for setting up of over 50 Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects targeting over 40,000 MW of solar power projects.
- (ii) Scheme for setting up 1000 MW of Grid-Connected Solar PV Power Projects by the Central Public Sector Undertakings-(CPSUs) and the Government of India organisations with Viability Gap Funding (VGF).
- (iii) Scheme for setting up 300 MW of Grid-Connected Solar PV Power Projects by Defence Establishments and Para Military Forces with VGF.
- (iv) Pilot-cum-demonstration projects for development of grid connected solar PV power plants on canal banks and canal tops.
- (v) Bundling Scheme - 15000 MW grid-connected solar PV power plants through NTPC Ltd. NVVN.
- (vi) VGF Scheme for setting up of 2000 MW of Grid Connected Solar PV Power Projects through SECI.
- (vii) VGF Scheme for setting up of 5000 MW of Grid Connected Solar PV Power Projects through SECI.
- (viii) Installation of Grid Connected Solar Rooftop Power Plants.
- (ix) Off-Grid Solar PV Scheme.

It is upto the State Government to seek Central Financial Assistance (CFA) in accordance with respective scheme guidelines and their priorities and availability of financial resources.