

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing Grid Connected Rooftop and Small Solar Power Plants Programme, under which, Central Financial Assistance (CFA) is being provided for installation of rooftop solar PV plants in residential, institutional and social sector. The solar power generated from rooftop solar can be used for electricity needs including for lighting purpose.

The CFA is 30% of the cost arrived through tender process or the benchmark cost prescribed by MNRE, whichever is less, in case of general category states/UTs and 70% in case of special category states/UTs. The CFA can be availed through State Nodal Agencies of the States.

Replacement of battery of solar street lights

1064. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that solar street lights provided under various Government schemes become useless after 3-4 years because of loss of battery life;
- (b) whether Government has any plan to replace batteries after their shelf life expire, to make them workable for longer duration; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) Presently, the solar street lights installed under the schemes operated by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) are provided with Lithium Ferro Phosphate (LFP) batteries, which are superior to conventional lead acid batteries. These batteries are expected to have an operational life of 7-8 years.

Further, these solar street lights are covered with Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) for a period of 5 years.

(b) and (c) Currently, there is no provision for replacement of batteries after expiry of CMC period through Government support. Replacement of batteries after expiry of CMC period is the responsibility of beneficiary.