

1	2	3
23.	Andhra Pradesh	13023.19
24.	Assam	19.76
25.	Bihar	525.94
26.	Himachal Pradesh	8382.48
27.	Puducherry	10.41
28.	Madhya Pradesh	7495.56
TOTAL		358408.54

Floating solar plants in India

1070. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has studied the new concept of "floating solar plants" in the country, the first one being set up in Banasura Sagar Reservoir in Kerala;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is mandating CPSUs to invest in solar power, if possible, on floating solar plants;

(c) the advantages of floating solar plants and in what manner can they be compared with conventional solar farms; and

(d) whether Government has carried out any study of how floating solar farms are working in China and Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) Setting floating solar plants is one of the focus areas of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and MNRE is actively involved in promoting setting up of floating solar photovoltaic (PV) power plants through Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), a Public Sector Enterprise under MNRE.

(b) Though Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have not been specifically mandated to invest in floating solar plants, CPSUs like Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), NTPC Limited and NLC India Limited are involved in development of floating solar power projects.

(c) Developing floating solar plants helps in saving land, reducing evaporation losses in reservoirs, and higher electricity generation than conventional ground mounted solar PV power projects due to cooling effect on solar panels.

(d) Government is regularly interacting with various stakeholders, including experts, to apprise them of latest developments in the field of solar energy, including floating solar, world across. In this context, a team of officials from SECI had visited floating solar power projects in China and some other countries.

KUSUM scheme

1071. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated and rolled out the Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme to promote the use of solar power among farmers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the expected timeline by which the KUSUM scheme is likely to be formulated and rolled-out;

(c) the number of solar pumps and solar power plants that are proposed to be provided/established under the KUSUM scheme, State-wise; and

(d) the expected/actual budget allocated towards the KUSUM scheme, over the next five years, from the State and Central Budgets, particularly the Central Financial Assistance required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government is formulating a Scheme 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan (KUSUM)' which *inter alia* aims to promote use of solar energy among the farmers. The proposed scheme provides for:—

- (i) setting up of grid-connected renewable power plants each of 500KW to 2 MW in the rural area;
- (ii) installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfil irrigation needs of farmers not connected to grid; and
- (iii) solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also sell surplus solar power generated to Discom and get extra income.