

(b) the allocation and disbursement of Central Financial Assistance for Odisha under PM-KUSUM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) is a demand driven Scheme and State-wise targets have not been fixed. Based on the demand received from different States, allocation of 2500 numbers of standalone solar water pumps has been made for the State of Odisha under Component-B of the Scheme. Odisha is yet to submit demand for allocation of capacity under Components-A and C of the Scheme.

Disbursement of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) is linked with progress of implementation of the Scheme. So far, no CFA has been disbursed to the State of Odisha under the Scheme.

Biomass energy

1729. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) what is India's scope of biomass energy;
- (b) the details of measures taken by Government to increase it; and
- (c) how can biomass substitute fossil fuel for eco-friendly energy generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) A Study conducted by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 2010-11 had estimated surplus biomass availability at about 120 to 150 million metric tons per annum covering agricultural residues. This corresponds to a potential of about 18,000 MW power. Apart from this, 7000-8000 MW additional power can be generated through bagasse cogeneration in the country's sugar mills.

(b) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has a scheme to support biomass based cogeneration in sugar mills and other industries (upto March, 2020). Under the scheme, biomass cogeneration projects are being provided Central Financial Assistance (CFA) @ ₹ 25 lakh/MW of surplus exportable capacity and ₹ 50 Lakh/MW of installed capacity depending on the type of fuel used.

(c) Biomass fuel is renewable, carbon neutral and is widely available. There are various methods like Combustion, Pyrolysis Gasification and Bio-Methanation through which biomass can be used for eco-friendly energy generation.

Norms for developers to set up solar projects

1730. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering norms to attract developers to set up solar projects in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that various solar tenders have remained under subscribed due to rigid policies of the Government; and

(c) if so, the steps Government is contemplating to ease norms for solar projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) and (c) In order to address the issues and attract private investment in solar sector as, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has taken following steps:—

(1) The State DISCOMs have been advised to honour Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and 'Must Run' status accorded to solar power projects, as per provisions of Indian Electricity Grid Code, 2010.

(2) In order to address the issues of delayed payments by the State distribution companies to Renewable Energy generators, the Government through Ministry of Power's Order No. 23/22/2019-R&R dated 28.06.2019 has made it mandatory for the Distribution Licensees to open and maintain adequate Letters of Credit (LCs) as Payment Security Mechanism, if provided for under Power Purchase Agreements with Distribution Licensees.

(3) Further, in order to strengthen the contractual provisions in the Contract (Power Purchase Agreements) between the solar power generators and the Procurers, and to facilitate setting up of Renewable Energy power projects, the Government, *vide* notification dated 22.10.2019 from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has made following major amendments to the 'Guidelines for Tariff Based Competitive Bidding