

(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

Process for Procurement of Power from Grid Connected Solar PV Power Projects':—

- (i) Solar Power Generators have been allowed to submit documents/Lease Agreement to establish possession/right to use 100% (hundred per cent) of the required land in the name of the Solar Power Generator for a period not less than the complete term of the PPA, on or before the Scheduled Commissioning Date (SCD).
- (ii) Clear and elaborate provisions for time extension and compensation to affected party in the event of natural and non-Natural Force Majeure events with specific provisions regarding termination due to natural and non-natural Force Majeure events have been included.
- (iii) Quantum of compensation for back-down has been increased from 50% to 100% with provision for recognition of only written instructions of back-down.
- (iv) Corresponding time extension in date for achievement of financial closure and scheduled commissioning date, in case there is a delay in adoption of tariff by the concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commission beyond a period of 60 days from the filing of such application.

(b) The participation of bidders in tenders for solar power projects has over the time been very encouraging with some tenders attracting bids of more than ten times the capacity to be allotted. However, in past few months, some solar tenders, have remained undersubscribed, which may be due to various reasons like delays in payments by distribution companies in some States, delays in adoption of tariffs by concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, etc.

Measures to increase solar energy generation

1731. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken to increase solar energy generation by 2030;
- (b) the details of revised solar manufacturing tender specification for the energy expansion; and