

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1733**  
ANSWERED ON-03/08/2021

**DISPOSAL OF SOLAR WASTE**

1733. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of solar energy capacity in the country and the progress in furthering the same, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the issue of solar waste is being addressed, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any steps are being taken to ensure ease of availability of land as well as finance for solar waste disposal, if so, details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER**

**(SHRI R.K. SINGH)**

(a) A total of 43.6 GW (including off-grid) of Solar energy capacity has been cumulatively installed in the country as on 30-6-2021. Further, projects of 36.89 GW capacity are under various stages of implementation and 19.76 GW are under various stages of bidding.

(b) The E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 cover disposal and recycling of e-waste (defined under the Rules as electrical and electronic equipment, whole or in part discarded as waste by the consumer or bulk consumer as well as rejects from manufacturing, refurbishment, and repair processes). Solar panels comprise of electrical and electronic components and are hence categorised as e-waste.

(c) Solar panels generally have a life of 25 years. Considering that most of the solar power capacity in the country has been installed from 2010 onwards, significant quantum of solar panel waste is not expected to be generated until the year 2035.

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