

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1901
ANSWERED ON-14/12/2021

**SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO FOSSIL FUEL IN
AGRICULTURE**

1901. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI

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

- (a) whether Government has country-wide data on the consumption of fossil fuel for the operation of water pumps and other agriculture equipment and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has given serious thought to encourage the farmers to operate water pumps and other equipment using solar and wind energy; and
- (c) whether Government has any concrete plan to encourage farmers to generate new and renewable energy in the agriculture sector which may result in reduction of imports of fossil fuel?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy does not compile country-wide data on the consumption of fossil fuel for the operation of water pumps and other agriculture equipment.

(b) & (c) For the solarisation of agriculture pumps and utilising barren/fallow land of farmers for generation of solar power, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme. The scheme has three components:

- (i) Component-A: installation of aggregated 10,000 MW capacity of small solar power plants, each of capacity up to 2 MW on the barren/fallow land of the farmers;
- (ii) Component-B: installation of 20 lakh standalone off-grid solar water pumps to replace diesel pumps; and
- (iii) Component-C: solarization of 15 lakh existing grid-connected agriculture pumps including through feeder level solarisation.

For Component-B and Component-C, Government of India is providing central financial assistance of 30% of the benchmark cost or cost discovered through tender, whichever is lower, for installation of standalone solar pumps. In case of North-Eastern States including Sikkim; hilly States of Himachal and Uttarakhand; UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Andaman & Nicobar Island and Lakshadweep, higher central financial support of 50% of benchmark cost or cost discovered through tender, whichever is lower, is being provided.

Under the Scheme, 30.8 GW solar power capacity will be created and it is estimated that around 1.4 billion litres of diesel will be saved annually on full implementation of the scheme.
