

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1576
ANSWERED ON 15.03.2022

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTING SOLAR ENERGY

1576#. SHRI SAMIR ORAON

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

- (a) whether the possibilities of new areas are being explored by Government to promote the use of solar energy;
- (b) whether there is any plan to use solar energy in agriculture sector; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) New areas such as production of green hydrogen, electric mobility, use of RE for domestic manufacturing of high efficiency solar cells and modules, etc., are being explored by the Government to promote the use of Renewable Energy including solar energy.

(b) & (c) To promote use of solar energy in agriculture sector, 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 is providing central financial assistance (CFA) of 30% of the benchmark cost or cost discovered through tender, whichever is lower. 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 CFA of 50% of benchmark cost or cost discovered through tender, whichever is lower, is being provided.
