

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 300
ANSWERED ON 04/02/2025

**WEST BENGAL'S RENEWABLE ENERGY UTILISATION AND SOLAR ENERGY
POTENTIAL**

300. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA

Will the Minister of New and Renewable Energy be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State of West Bengal is under-utilising its renewable energy capacity, particularly in the solar energy sector;
- (b) the current solar energy capacity of the State, and the percentage in India's total solar energy capacity;
- (c) the estimated potential for solar energy production in West Bengal; and
- (d) the specific measures the Ministry is planning to accelerate West Bengal's progress in harnessing renewable energy, including initiatives to enhance capacity utilisation, promote solar energy, and reduce the state's reliance on fossil fuel-fired electricity?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) to (c) The total estimated potential of renewable energy in the State of West Bengal is 10.48 GW out of which the solar energy estimated potential is 6.26 GW.

As on 31.12.2024, a total of 2.10 GW renewable energy has been installed in the State of West Bengal. Out of this, solar projects of aggregate capacity of around 0.31 GW have been installed in the State, which is around 0.3% of total solar energy capacity installed in the country.

(d) Government of India has taken several steps and initiatives to promote and accelerate renewable energy capacity in the country including in the State of West Bengal. Details are given at **Annexure**.

**Annexure referred to in reply of part (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question
No. 300 to be answered on 04.02.2025**

The Government of India has taken several steps and initiatives to promote and accelerate renewable energy capacity in the country. These include, inter-alia, the following:

- Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) has issued Bidding Trajectory for issuance of RE power procurement bids of 50 GW/annum by Renewable Energy Implementing Agencies(REIAs) [REIAs: Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), NTPC Limited, NHPC Limited, SJVN Limited] from FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been permitted up to 100 percent under the automatic route.
- Inter State Transmission System (ISTS) charges have been waived for inter-state sale of solar and wind power for projects to be commissioned by 30th June 2025, for Green Hydrogen Projects till December 2030 and for offshore wind projects till December 2032.
- To boost RE consumption, Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) followed by Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) trajectory has been notified till 2029-30. The RCO which is applicable to all designated consumers under the Energy Conservation Act 2001 will attract penalties on non-compliance. RCO also includes specified quantum of consumption from Decentralized Renewable Energy sources.
- Project Development Cell for attracting and facilitating investments has been set up.
- Standard Bidding Guidelines for tariff based competitive bidding process for procurement of Power from Grid Connected Solar, Wind, Wind-Solar Hybrid and Firm & Dispatchable RE (FDRE) projects have been issued.
- Schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM), PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules, National Green Hydrogen Mission, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme for Offshore Wind Energy Projects have been launched.
- Scheme for setting up of Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Parks is being implemented to provide land and transmission to RE developers for installation of RE projects at large scale.
- Laying of new transmission lines and creating new sub-station capacity has been funded under the Green Energy Corridor Scheme for evacuation of renewable power.
- Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 has been issued for net-metering up to five hundred Kilowatt or up to the electrical sanctioned load, whichever is lower.

- “National Repowering and Life Extension Policy for Wind Power Projects, 2023” has been issued.
- “Strategy for Establishments of Offshore Wind Energy Projects” has been issued indicating a bidding trajectory of 37 GW by 2030 and various business models for project development.
- The Offshore Wind Energy Lease Rules, 2023 have been notified vide Ministry of External Affairs notification dated 19th December 2023, to regulate the grant of lease of offshore areas for development of offshore wind energy projects.
- Standard & Labelling (S&L) programs for Solar Photovoltaic modules and Grid-connected Solar Inverters have been launched.
- To augment transmission infrastructure needed for steep RE trajectory, transmission plan has been prepared till 2030.
- “The Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and related matters) Rules (LPS rules) have been notified.
- Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022, has been notified on 06th June 2022 with objective of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable green energy for all. Green Energy Open Access is allowed to any consumer with contract demand of 100 kW or above through single or multiple single connection aggregating Hundred kW or more located in same electricity division of a distribution licensee.
- Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) has been launched to facilitate sale of Renewable Energy Power through exchanges.
- Government has issued orders that power shall be dispatched against Letter of Credit (LC) or advance payment to ensure timely payment by distribution licensees to RE generators.