

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1876
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2002
SOLAR POWER FOR TAJ MAHAL 'S PROTECTION
ANANDRAO ADSUL;GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Government to provide solar power within four months to four air quality monitoring stations in Agra to protect the historic Taj Mahal from environmental pollution;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry has been asked to supply both the technology as well as fund for setting up solar power centres;
- (c) if so, whether the Ministry has agreed to implement the directive of the Supreme Court; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES(INDEPENDENT CHARGE), (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a)&(b) : There are two air quality monitoring laboratories in the Taj Mahal Complex. One laboratory is being run by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) and the other by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) ; the latter was until recently run by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB).The Supreme Court, in the course of hearing a petition relating to the impact of air pollution on the Taj Mahal, has directed the ASI, CPCB and UPPCB, vide its order dated 27th November, 2001, to install solar energy systems to power the essential equipment at the air quality monitoring stations. The Court has also directed that for the time being the Central Government should meet the cost of using this technology.

(c) & (d) : The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is coordinating the efforts for setting up the solar photovoltaic power plants for meeting the essential loads at both of these laboratories. Meetings were organized with all concerned organizations and project reports were got prepared for installing solar systems at the two laboratories. The estimates were also sanctioned and appropriate advice has been given to ASI & CPCB.The Ministry has also offered to meet a part of the cost of the solar power plants out of its resources and rest of cost to come from ASI & CPCB.The work is likely to be completed within 10 weeks of the placement of order and providing a clear site for the installation.