

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1258
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2000
SOLAR COOKERS SOLAR HEATERS
BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY

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

- (a) whether good percentage of solar cookers, solar heaters etc. once installed became non-functional;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the money spent by the Government commensurate with the benefit reaped and conventional energy saved; and
- (d) the details of money spent during the year 1998-99 and budget provisions made for the year 1999-2000?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRIM. KANNAPPAN)

(a)&(b): A large number of solar cookers and solar water heaters installed during the eighties became non-functional due to the factors such as evolving nature of technology, lack of maintenance and lack of interest on the part of users. However, the situation has improved greatly during the past few years due to better technology, introduction of standards, improved after sales service etc. A recent survey by the Consumer Coordination Council in Bangalore found that 97% of the solar water heaters installed during the last five years were functional.

(c): The money spent by the Government helped in the development of a manufacturing base in the country, improvement in the technology and products, and building consumer confidence. The investment on a solar water heater is recovered in 3-6 years depending on the fuel substituted; that on a cooker in 3-4 years. These factors have led to a commercialization of these products, enabling the Government to discontinue the capital subsidy on them.

(d): The money spent by the Central Government during the year 1998-99 for the development and promotion of solar cookers, solar water heaters and other solar thermal devices was Rs. 1.45 crores. The budget provision for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 3.50 crores.