

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2560  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2006  
PROMOTION OF SOLAR ENERGY  
Rana Shri Kashi Ram;Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao

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

:

- (a) whether the Government has launched any awareness campaign regarding solar energy and its use;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the achievements made by the Government so far in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR)

(a)&(b): Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) has been creating awareness through newspapers, booklets, leaflets, brochures, news letters, exhibitions, fairs on various renewable energy technologies including Solar Energy in Hindi, English and regional languages all over the country.

An awareness campaign to popularize the use of solar water heating systems and Akshay Urja Shops has been launched. Advertisements in national and regional newspapers highlighting the availability of soft loans from various banks and financial institutions for installation of solar water heating systems in domestic, institutional, industrial and commercial sectors are published.

MNES is also organizing Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas in all districts, metros and state capitals of the country on 20th August for wide publicity and awareness on renewable energy including solar energy since 2004. District Advisory Committees on renewable energy have also been constituted in 550 districts for coordination and awareness creation of renewable energy systems / programmes at district level. Renewable Energy Clubs have been established in Engineering Colleges for raising awareness among engineering students.

(c): The campaigns generated considerable interest for the installation of solar water heating systems and setting up of Akshay Urja Shops. As a result, around 4 lakh square metres of solar collector area for water heating was installed during 2005-06 taking the cumulative installations in the country to 1.5 million square metres. Based on the proposals received for setting up of Akshay Urja Shops, 118 shops have been sanctioned.