

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2621
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2006
SOLAR WATER HEATING SYSTEM
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

:

- (a) the present status of installation of Solar Water Heating System in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is extending loans through various nationalized banks for setting up of the Solar Water Heating Systems;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to promote the use of solar energy in the country?

Answer

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

(a): A total of around 1.5 million square metres of solar collector area has been installed for water heating so far in the country. This includes domestic solar water heaters and installations in institutions, industry and commercial establishments. Installations have been higher in States where hot water is required for a greater part of the year. Karnataka leads in installation of solar water heating systems followed by Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. They are also becoming popular in other States such as Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Punjab and Haryana.

(b)&(c): The Government is implementing a Scheme, which provides interest subsidy so that loans for solar water heating systems are available from financial institutions and banks, including nationalized banks @ 2% for domestic users, 3% for institutions and 5% for industrial/commercial users. Besides, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and three Non-Banking Financing Companies (NBFCs), the Scheme is, at present being implemented through nine nationalized public sector banks and six scheduled co-operative banks.

(d): Steps taken to promote the use of solar energy in the country include financial assistance for installation of solar energy devices/systems through capital subsidy or interest subsidy, depending on the type of system and end-use application; promotional measures by State Governments, municipal corporations, electricity boards such as mandatory installation of solar water heating systems through amendment of building bye-laws, rebates in property tax or electricity bills; setting up of Akshay Urja Shops in various districts for sale and service of renewable energy products including solar energy systems and devices; technology upgradation to reduce cost, improve efficiency and reliability; support to training programmes, seminars/symposia and publicity and awareness campaigns.