

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:530

ANSWERED ON:11.05.2007

POPULARISATION OF USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Athawale Shri Ramdas;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether renewable energy is not popular amongst the common man/rural people due to its high prices; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to create awareness amongst the common man/rural people regarding the use of this alternative source of energy and to make available renewable energy to the common man at an affordable price?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR)

(a): Bulk of the consumption of energy by the common man/rural people comes from renewable energy, mainly agro and forest residues, and animal wastes. Already, close to 40 lakh family size biogas plants have been supported apart from over 10 lakhs solar photovoltaic homelighting systems through provision of central financial assistance with a view to making them affordable under different programmes of this Ministry. Distributed heat and electricity generation through renewables is also being supported through provision of partial subsidy.

(b): The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy through Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; State nodal agencies etc. has been organizing publicity and awareness campaigns on the usefulness of renewable energy systems through print and electronic media and outdoor exhibitions in national and regional languages throughout the country. Besides the Ministry is organizing essay writing, poster making and quiz competitions, renewable energy runs/rallies, seminars during Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas every year on 20th August. District Advisory Committees have been constituted in almost all the districts of the country for popularization of renewable energy and to facilitate promotion and effective coordination of renewable energy. Renewable Energy Newsletters are also brought out by the Ministry as well as State nodal agencies for creating awareness. Research and Development efforts are being supported to bring down the costs of renewable energy devices by way of developing alternate cheaper materials and improvement in efficiencies. The Government is also supporting deployment of renewable energy systems by fiscal concessions and subsidies both on capital costs and interest costs.