

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4585

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010

USE OF SOLAR PANELS IN CELLULAR TOWERS

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

- (a) whether the cellular towers, using diesel generators consume a lot of power in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to promote the use of solar panels instead of diesel generator in the cellular towers in the country;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has allocated funds to the State Governments for the purpose;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b): As per reports, there are about 3 lakh telecom towers in the country and most of them use diesel generator as a backup power source. They are estimated to be consuming about 1 billion liters of diesel in a year.

(c),(d),(e)&(f): Many tower companies and mobile service providers are already using solar photovoltaic systems at some of the telecom towers to reduce their dependence on diesel generators.

Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission the Government has decided to provide subsidy/soft loan for various off-grid solar applications, including use of solar photovoltaic systems in telecom towers. The scheme is to be implemented through various organizations including the state nodal agencies.

The specific project proposals are to be considered on the merit of the proposals and the release of funds would be linked to the progress of the project.