

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1409
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2011
USE OF SOLAR ENERGY
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce grant based loan scheme with the help of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for encouraging the use of solar energy in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to provide the necessary solar energy equipment to implement the said scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is implementing a scheme to promote off-grid applications of solar energy such as solar lanterns, home lights, other small capacity photovoltaic systems and solar water heating systems with a 30% capital subsidy and/or loan at 5% through NABARD. An amount of Rs. 35 crore has been released in 2010-11 to NABARD to provide funds to the regional rural banks to support solar lighting systems.

(c)&(d): No, Madam. The solar energy systems/equipment are directly marketed by the eligible manufacturers/ system integrators. The Ministry has laid down the performance criterion for purchase of such systems.