

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1013  
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011  
SOLAR POWER GENERATION  
Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

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

- (a) whether the Solar Power can save over 30 percent of India's coal imports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken for increased Solar Power Generation in the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

**Answer**

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

(a)&b): Madam, solar power has the potential to reduce consumption of coal significantly; however, this will be possible only after the cost of the solar power gets reduced and grid parity is achieved.

(c): Government has approved the target to set up 1,100 MW grid connected solar plants, including 100 MW capacity as small solar plants in the first phase of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission till March, 2013. During 2010-11 Government has allotted grid solar projects of about 800 MW capacity, including 98 MW capacity for small solar power plants. The balance capacity grid solar power projects are to be selected in 2011-12. Another 200 MW capacity off-grid solar applications are also to be supported in the first phase of the Mission through subsidy and/or loan. During 2010-11, off-grid solar projects of an aggregate capacity of 40.6 MW were sanctioned in the country.