

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1760  
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2012  
SOLAR TECHNOLOGY POLICIES  
Kumar Shri P.;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that US is keen to grab a major share in the market and has protested against the domestic content requirement in India's solar energy sector that prevent the import of foreign made solar panels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the US Government has criticized India's solar technology policies to be detrimental to international investments owing to high level of preferential treatment to domestic firms;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government is poised to attain the ambitious target of generating 20,000 MW of solar power by 2022 while also managing to source key supplies from domestic firms; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a): Government is aware that US Companies are bidding for Solar Power Projects in India. The subject of domestic content was raised by US in the fifth trade policy review of India which took place at WTO Geneva in Sep, 2011.
- (b): US has viewed the condition of domestic content stipulated in the guidelines for selection of Solar Power Projects under Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) to be inconsistent with the WTO obligations.
- (c): The US Government has expressed its views on the condition of domestic content requirement.
- (d): The reaction of the Government has been that domestic content requirement is applicable to Grid Solar Power Projects of Phase-I of JNNSM which is essentially procurement of solar power by Government through designated entity NRVN. Hence there is no violation of WTO obligations.
- (e): The Government has targeted to achieve generation of 20,000 MW of solar power by 2022. Government has also put in place policies for Phase-I (upto 2012-13) of the Mission to support sourcing from domestic firms.
- (f): Sourcing key supplies from domestic firms has been encouraged. For this, a condition of domestic content has been stipulated in the Guidelines for Selection of Grid Connected Solar Projects which states that in case of PV projects, based on crystalline silicon technology, being selected in Phase-I, Batch-I use of solar modules, Batch-II use of solar cells and modules of Indian origin is mandatory. Import of thin film modules and CPV modules is permitted. Also, 30% domestic content is mandatory for all new solar thermal power projects sanctioned under Phase-I of the Mission.