

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1365
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012
SOLAR POWER GENERATION
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

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

:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of a multi-benefit solar power generation project of Gujarat in which solar panels have been installed atop a canal of Narmada river carrying water to arid areas, producing clear energy, saving huge quantity of water from evaporation and also sparing enormous amount of land otherwise required for solar power project;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to adopt similar methods for setting-up of solar power projects in other parts of the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Madam. The Government has taken note of the canal top solar photovoltaic power plant of 1 MW capacity that has been set up over a 750-metres stretch of canal in Mehsana district of Gujarat in February this year.
- (b): The Government has not put any restrictions with regard to selection of sites for solar power plants and the developers are free to put up plants over canals.
- (c): The solar power plants are being set up in the country under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission in mainly private sector, with entirely private investment, and not by the Government.
- (d): It is for the developers to make their own assessment of techno-economic attractiveness of different sites allowed under concerned State Policy. While there is saving in land, there is an extra cost due to structures required to be built on the canal.