

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5068

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2013

FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN SOLAR ENERGY SECTOR

Pakkirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether United States has expressed interest in developing solar energy sector in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the areas identified for installation of solar projects by US?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The various ongoing cooperation activities with United States in developing solar energy sector in India are as under:

A Joint Working Group on New Technologies & Renewable Energy set up under the India-US Energy Dialogue initiated in May 2005 interacts regularly for development of various new and renewable energy technologies including solar.

Activities relating to improvement in "Solar Resource Mapping of India" and "Reliability testing of photovoltaic modules" were initiated under an MoU on technical cooperation in the field of solar energy signed in November 2009 between the Solar Energy Centre (SEC) of the Ministry and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) of USA and the same are ongoing.

A new project on Solar Energy Research Initiative between India and United States has been taken up recently involving Research Institutes and Industries of both the countries for development of solar energy technologies. The Solar Energy Center of the Ministry is a partner in this initiative.

(c): Solar power projects are being installed mainly in private sector with largely private investment and these can be set up in any area/ location not excluded by the local land use policy and other statutory restrictions. US companies are participating in various Schemes of Gol and State Governments set up solar projects.