

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1504

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2009

INVESTMENTS IN SOLAR POWER

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

- (a) the percentage of area in the country where electricity generated from solar energy is being supplied, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any short / long term strategy to increase investments in solar energy sector;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the per unit cost of electricity generated through solar energy is more than other sources of the energy; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to address the high per unit cost of solar power and to ensure availability of solar equipments at cheaper rates in the country?

Answer

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

(a),(b)&(c): Government has approved Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission to develop solar energy technologies to make solar power competitive to conventional grid power. The Mission aims at setting up of 20,000 MW grid solar power and 2,000 MW of off-grid solar power including 20 million solar lights by 2022. In addition, it aims at installation of 20 million square metre solar thermal collector area by 2022. The Mission will be implemented in three phases. Government has approved the target, for the first phase of the Mission; to set up 1,100 MW grid connected solar plants, including 100 MW capacity plants as rooftop and small solar plants. In addition, 200 MW capacity equivalent off-grid solar applications and 7 million square metre solar thermal collector area, including roof-mounted solar systems, are also proposed in the first phase of the Mission, till 2012-13. At present three plants of megawatt size have been installed in Karnataka (2 MW) and West Bengal (1 MW).

(d)&(e): At present the cost of generation of electricity from solar energy is high in comparison to other sources. Through Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission the Ministry aims at reducing the cost of solar electricity to make it competitive to the tariff of conventional grid power by 2022.

In addition, the Ministry is supporting research and development to reduce cost, improve efficiency and overall performance of solar energy systems and also for development of new materials and devices.

The Ministry has taken several other steps to increase utilization of solar energy in the country, which include

- (i) expanded programmes to encourage utilization of solar energy systems through subsidy or soft loans,
- (ii) incentive to manufacturers, commercial users and power project developers
- (iii) support to Akshaya Urja shops to provide additional channels for supply and after-sales servicing of solar energy systems, and
- (iv) support for capacity building and for creation of awareness through print and electronic media.