

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2561

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015

POTENTIAL OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN DESERT AREAS

Chaudhary Shri P.P.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of great potential of renewable energy in desert areas of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted a large scale survey to assess the potential of this sector;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Power Grid Corporation of India Limited has indicated in its report about potential of solar and wind energy in desert regions of the country;
- (e) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to invest the required funds in phases for this purpose;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the details of strategy chalked out by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER, COAL & NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a),(b),(c)&(d): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) had assigned a study to the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) to identify likely renewable power potential in desert regions in the states of Rajasthan (Thar), Gujarat (Rann of Kutch), Himachal Pradesh (Lahul & Spiti) and Jammu & Kashmir (Ladakh).

In December 2013, the PGCIL had submitted a study report titled "Desert Power India- 2050" assessing renewable power potential, transmission infrastructure requirement, balancing reserve etc in the identified desert regions. The report has assessed the total available potential of 315.7 GW of solar and wind power in these regions. The report has further estimated that the investment requirement for harnessing the available potential upto 2050 would be Rs 43,74,550 crore.

(e),(f)&(g): The investments in renewable energy power projects are mainly by private sector. Government provides some incentives in the forms of generation based incentives, viability gap funding. Besides, fiscal incentives such as accelerated depreciation, concessional customs duty, excise duty exemption, income tax holiday for 10 years and preferential tariff are provided for renewable energy power projects.