

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3090

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2014

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR

Azad Shri Kirti (JHA);Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken any proactive measures to foster the growth of solar energy producing companies through grants, international collaborations, indigenous Research & Development (R&D) ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to work out a strategy with various polysilicon manufacturers in order to address the needs of the solar energy industry;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to set up new centres for R&D in clean energy, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has entered into collaboration with other countries for R&D in clean energy and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a)&(b): The Government is taking the following major steps to foster growth of solar energy producing companies in the country:
- i. Fiscal and financial incentives in the form of accelerated depreciation, concessional/nil customs and excise duties, preferential tariffs and generation based incentives are being provided to improve viability of solar power generation units.
 - ii. Scheme for setting up grid-connected solar PV power projects with mechanisms like 'Bundling unallocated coal based thermal power' and Viability Gap Funding from National clean Energy Funds' are being implemented.
 - iii. Capital subsidy is being provided for off-grid/ decentralized solar power generation systems.
 - iv. An enabling policy and regulatory environment is being created through measures like solar specific RPOs under National Tariff Policy {0.25% in Phase 1 (2013) to increase to 3% by 2022}, State Specific Solar Policies and RPO targets, and REC mechanism. Efforts are being made to ensure compliance by DISCOMs and obligated entities with this solar energy producing companies to get a long term market.
 - v. The R&D with private sector is also being encouraged. Ministry provides upto 100% financial support to Government/non-profit research organizations/NGOs and 50% to industry/civil society organizations.
- (c)&(d): Polysilicon is not being manufactured in India at present. However, under R&D Policy, there is provision to promote the R&D projects on development and synthesis of polysilicon innovations in the field of solar energy.
- (e)&(f): Ministry has no proposal to set up new R&D centre directly under the Ministry. However, in R&D various established institutions are being supported. Collaborations in R&D projects in various areas of renewable energy have been taken up involving, amongst others institutions like Fraunhofer ISE Germany, The Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) Germany, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), USA etc. with our institutions like NISE.