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Title: Need to take necessary steps to tap solar energy for the production of Electricity in the Sunderbans, West Bengal.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): Sir, Sundarban is known world over for its largest mangrove swamp and Royal Bengal Tiger. It has also the largest potential for generation of electricity from non-conventional energy sources like wind power, tidal waves, biomass and solar energy.

Two islands of the Sundarban, Sagar and Gosaba have often been described as the power islands of Sundarbans. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has already conducted surveys for generation of electricity out of non-conventional energy sources. But this has remained on paper. No action has been taken so far. In Gosoba the largest Biomass Gassifier Power Plant is already in operation. But the solar energy has remained untapped.

There has been a long pending demand from the people of this region for setting up solar energy based power plants for producing electricity. Non-conventional energy sources are the only means for the people of Sundarbans to have access to electricity.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for tapping the solar energy for the production of electricity in the sundarbans.