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title: Need to change the sharing pattern in new scheme for promotion of solar pump sets.

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Hon. Speaker Madam, in Tamil Nadu ground water irrigates 62 per cent of the area under irrigation. From 2013-14 solar pumping systems have been provided to farmers in the State with 80 per cent subsidy which is 50 per cent under the National Agriculture Development Programme, 30 per cent from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and 20 per cent as farmers contribution.

In 2016-17, 2,100 solar pumping systems of up to 10 HP was proposed to be installed at a total cost of Rs. 114 crore. It is understood that the Government of India has proposed to implement a new scheme for promotion of solar pump sets with micro irrigation systems with a sharing pattern of 30:65:5 – 30 per cent as Centre's share; 65 per cent as State's share; and five per cent as farmer's share. The State's share is to be met through a loan from the nationalised banks and NABARD's RIDF. The debt service is to be funded by the State through the levy of an additional cess on electricity consumed in the industrial and commercial sectors. This does not appear to be a feasible option with several regulatory issues. This issue was clearly highlighted by our hon. Chief Minister, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* to hon. Prime Minister. Hence, the Government of India should consider retaining the sharing pattern of Government of India – 80 per cent; State's share of 15 per cent; and farmer's share of 5 per cent for the solar pump set scheme.