

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2938

TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2016

COST OF GENERATING SOLAR ENERGY

2938. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

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

- (a) the details of cost of generating one unit of electricity using solar power in the country;
- (b) the total area of land that needs to be utilized for generation of 1 GW of solar power;
- (c) whether there are any existing solar power facilities on fertile or agricultural land; and
- (d) if so, whether there are provisions prohibiting such facilities in those areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER, COAL , NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY & MINES
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): As per the tariff order issued by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) for the year 2016-17, the levellised tariff for 25 years for solar power generated is Rs. 5.68 per unit for solar power plants based on solar photovoltaic technology and Rs. 12.07 per unit for solar power plants based on solar thermal technology. However, in the recent bidding for grid-connected solar PV power plants under National Solar Mission (NSM), in Bhadla Phase-II solar park in Rajasthan, lowest bid of Rs. 4.34/kWh has been received.

(b): The land area required to set up solar power plants depends on the type of technology deployed and decreases with increase in the efficiency of the deployed technology. Keeping in view the requirement of 2 Hectare land per MW, to set up 1 GW of solar power, approximately 2,000 hectares of land will be required.

(c)&(d): The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), “in-principle”, does not support setting up of solar power plants on fertile or agricultural land. Generally barren / waste lands are preferred by the developers as the same can be acquired easily at a low cost. Further, MNRE has come up with a scheme on solar parks, wherein land and other infrastructure for setting up of solar power plants is made readily available to the solar power developers and for this, State Governments have been asked to prioritize the use of Government waste / non-agricultural land.
