

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2355
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.12.2018**

SOLAR PANELS ON VACANT LAND

**2355. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:
DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State:

- (a) whether the Railways plans to sell some of the electricity produced through its solar projects to State DISCOMS;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the details of existing solar energy production capacity of railways;**
- (d) the details of the total unused land in possession of the railways which could be utilized for installation of solar panels; zone-wise;**
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any study to make railway sleepers mounted solar panels to generate electricity; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the details of any such plan, if any, prepared by the Railways?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) & (b) No, Madam. State DISCOMs would be approached for Selling/banking of solar power, as and when the need arises.

(c) Indian Railways has planned to set up 500 Mega Watt (MW) of

Solar Plants on Railway stations and Service buildings and 500 MW of Land based Solar plants. Out of the above, total 71.19 MW has already been set up and rest is in various stages of commissioning/planning.

(d) As on 31.03.2018, Indian Railways has about 0.51 Lakh hectare (approximately) of vacant land which is mostly in the form of narrow strip of varying width along the track. This narrow strip of land is required for maintenance/operational and development purpose of Railways infrastructure. However, part of this narrow strip can be utilized for installation of Solar Panels after Feasibility study. Details of Vacant land Zonal Railway wise is placed at Appended.

(e) & (f) No, Madam, There is no study of sleepers mounted Solar panels, as the concrete sleepers are laid below the rail and need to be exposed for regular maintenance.

APPENDIX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2355 BY SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH AND DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 26.12.2018 REGARDING SOLAR PANELS ON VACANT LAND.

(d) Details of vacant land Zonal Railways wise in Hectares: -

Zonal Railway	Vacant Land in Hectares
Central	2022.03
Eastern	2110.49
East Central	4094.75
East Coast	3011.28
Northern	11438.69
North Central	735.11
North Eastern	5564.67
Northeast Frontier	1410.45
North Western	1277.35
Southern	2741.44
South Central	1276.58
South Eastern	464.76
South East Central	3142.72
South Western	4662.15
Western	6258.54
West Central	617.45
Total	50828.46
