

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2597

TO BE ANSWERED ON-27.12.2018

USAGE OF GROUND WATER BY SOLAR-POWERED PUMPS

2597. SHRI PREM DAS RAI

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

- (a) whether the Government has done evaluation and monitoring of ground water usage resulting from solar-powered pumps and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any evidence of water over-usage is noticed in the areas having good penetration of solar-powered pumps and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to disincentivise such over-usage of water by encouraging alternative uses?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER (I/C)
(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b) Under Off-grid and decentralised solar PV programme subsidy is provided only for small solar pumps of capacity up to 5 HP and the guidelines issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for installation of solar power pumps provide for integration of Solar Pumps with water harvesting and drip irrigation or any other relevant schemes to encourage overall efficiency in agricultural activities. These measures prevent over usage of ground water.

(c) &(d) No Madam. In the proposed KUSUM Scheme a provision has been made for remote monitoring of solar water pumps, which will help in assessing ground water usage in an area. Further, no new pumps will be solarised in dark zones/black zones. The proposed KUSUM Scheme also provides for feeding of surplus solar power into the grid, which will provide an addition source of income to farmers. This will promote using water efficient techniques and thus preventing over-usage of ground water.
