

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4154
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2019

AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY TO MASSES

4154. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide reliable, sustainable and affordable electricity to masses focusing the attention towards green energy sources;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government aims to set up 500 Giga Watts (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2030 to reduce the dependence on conventional energy resources under its plan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon;
- (e) whether power discom requires to buy a fixed quantity of renewable energy under renewable purchase obligation to cut reliance of fossil fuels and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether Government has set defined milestones or policy to reduce the electricity rates for common man in reference to the required demand as per 2022 target and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government's endeavour remains to provide reliable, sustainable and affordable electricity to the masses with enhanced share of renewable energy in the total energy mix.

Various initiatives taken towards this objective include:-

- i. Announcement of 175 Giga Watts (GW) renewable energy capacity target by 2022;
- ii. Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya);
- iii. Flexibility in generation and scheduling of thermal power stations;
- iv. Grid augmentation for absorbing increasing share of renewable energy;
- v. Issue of guidelines for tariff based competitive bidding for procurement of power from grid connected solar and wind power projects;
- vi. Waiving inter-state transmission charges and losses for solar and wind projects to be commissioned by 31 March 2022; and
- vii. Notification of long term Renewable Purchase Obligation trajectory up to the year 2021-22.

(c) and (d) As part of Nationally Determined Contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, India is committed to achieve about 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030. The Government of India's renewable energy policies and programmes have been drawn for achieving this objective.

(e) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Power, on 14 June 2018, notified the long term growth trajectory of Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) that seeks 21 per cent RPO on Obligated Entities, including distribution companies, uniformly for all States/UTs upto the year 2021-22.

(f) One of the objectives of the Tariff Policy 2016 is to ensure availability of electricity to consumers at reasonable and competitive rates. It also mandates that future requirement of power should be procured competitively by distribution licensees, and the Appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commissions shall ensure that the benefit of sharing of infrastructure of existing projects and efficiency of new technology is passed on to consumers through tariff.