

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 217
ANSWERED ON 20.07.2023

COMMISSIONING OF SOLAR PARKS

217. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

- (a) whether despite the commissioning of 57 large solar parks with a total capacity of 40 GW in recent years, only 10 GW has been operationalized across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the country need about 3040 GW of energy for domestic purposes annually and the rest can be used for exports and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether installing a megawatt of solar power requires on average four acres of land and as a result, various developers face challenges in acquiring land and that is one reason for the delay and some projects have therefor been cancelled;
- (e) if so, the details and the present status thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the corrective steps being taken in this regard, State and project-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b) As on 30-06-2023, Ministry has sanctioned 50 Solar Parks of cumulative capacity 37.99 GW under the scheme for “Development of Solar Parks and Ultra-Mega Solar Power Projects”. Against this sanction, 11 Solar Parks with aggregate capacity of 8.521 GW have been completed and 7 Solar Parks with aggregate capacity of 3.985 GW have been partially completed.

1.70 lakh Acres of land have been acquired and development thereof is in progress.

(c) No, Sir. The power generation installed capacity in the country is 421.9 GW as on 30-06-2023; whereas the peak demand till date has been 223.25 GW.

(d)&(e) The amount of land required for installing solar projects varies based on various factors like technology used, plotting and contiguity of land etc. However, an average of four acres of land is required to set up 1 MW capacity.

Renewable Energy projects are implemented largely through private investments and land acquisition is undertaken by the respective project developers as required. Land is under the purview of respective State Governments; and they are required to remove the hurdles in land acquisition.

Some parks, which were initially sanctioned and subsequently cancelled due to issues like forest clearance (e.g., Kaza and Kinnaur Solar Parks in Himachal Pradesh), Coastal Regulation Zone clearance (e.g., West Bengal Solar Park, Dholera Ph-II Solar Park in Gujarat), etc.

(f) Ministry has been following up with concerned State Governments to allot barren land free of all encumbrances and not falling under zones such forest, coastal etc.

Under Mode-8 of the Solar Park Scheme, a facilitation charge of Rs. 0.05/unit is provided to the State/UT Governments for the quantum of power being exported outside the State from the projects in the park, for facilitating in acquisition of land and for obtaining required statutory clearances.
