

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3100
ANSWERED ON 21/12/2023

DISPOSAL OF SOLAR WASTE

3100. SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI

Will the Minister of New and Renewable Energy be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of solar energy capacity in the country and the progress made in increasing the same;
- (b) whether the issue of solar waste is being addressed and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any steps are being taken to ensure ease of availability of land as well as finance for solar waste disposal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

- (a) The cumulative installed capacity of Solar Energy till March 31, 2014 was 2.28 GW. As of November 30, 2023, the total cumulative installed capacity of solar energy has reached to 72.31 GW.
- (b) to (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has notified the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 on 2nd November, 2022. As per these rules, every manufacturer and producer of solar photo-voltaic modules or panels or cells shall:
 - i. ensure registration on the portal;
 - ii. store solar photo-voltaic modules or panels or cells waste generated up to the year 2034-2035 as per the guidelines laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard;
 - iii. file annual returns in the laid down form on the portal on or before the end of the year to which the return relates up to year 2034-2035;
 - iv. ensure that the processing of the waste other than solar photo-voltaic modules or panels or cells shall be done as per the applicable rules or guidelines for the time being in force;
 - v. ensure that the inventory of solar photo-voltaic modules or panels or cells shall be put in place distinctly on portal;
 - vi. comply with standard operating procedure and guidelines laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard.

Further, the recycler of solar photo-voltaic modules or panels or cells shall be mandated for recovery of material as laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard.

The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 provides that the Department of Industry in the State and Union territory or any other government agency authorized in this regard by the State Government or the Union territory, as the case may be, shall ensure earmarking or allocation of industrial space or shed for e-waste dismantling and recycling in the existing and upcoming industrial park, estate and industrial clusters.
