

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-888
ANSWERED ON-17/09/2020

VIABILITY GAP FUNDING FOR BIOMASS PROJECTS

888. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU

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

- (a) whether the State of Punjab has sought central assistance in terms of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for its biomass projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to meet this demand of the State of Punjab which can help tackle the stubble burning problem in the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY, POWER and
MoS for SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b) The Ministry had received representations from the State Govt. of Punjab requesting for grant of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) assistance @ Rs 5 Crore/MW to rice straw based biomass power projects of capacity 150 MW in Punjab for utilization of excess paddy straw that is burnt in the fields.

(c) to (e) Considering these representations and to discuss the issue of rice straw burning in northern states of India, a Stakeholder consultation with the representatives of State Governments of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, SECI, IREDA and various Biomass developers was held in January 2020 at MNRE.
