GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1848 ANSWERED ON 28.07.2022

SUBSIDIZED SOLAR PUMPS TO FARMERS

1848. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY

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

(a) whether the Government is providing subsidized solar pumps to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is true that even the subsidized rate of solar pumps is unaffordable for farmers;

(d) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to make solar pumps a feasible option for farmers;

(e) whether it is also true that it is difficult for the farmers to finance the remaining share left after subsidized solar pumps as the microfinance institutions do not provide finance for agriculture equipment like solar pumps; and;

(f) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to provide finance for agriculture equipments like solar pumps?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a)to(f) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM), which inter-alia provides for installation of 20 lakh standalone solar pumps with central financial assistance (CFA) upto 30% of the benchmark cost. In case of North-Eastern States including Sikkim, hilly States of Himachal and Uttarakhand, UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Andaman & Nicobar Island and Lakshadweep a higher CFA upto 50% of benchmark cost is provided.

Besides the CFA, at least equivalent financial support is provided by the concerned state government for the standalone solar pumps under PM-KUSUM Scheme. Therefore, farmers have to contribute only balance amount and a part of which can be met through bank finance.

Efforts have been made to make the financing easily available to the farmers under PM-KUSUM Scheme, and these have resulted in:

(i) Inclusion of PM-KUSUM Scheme under priority sector lending guidelines of RBI.

(ii) Inclusion of community scale projects under the Component-B and Component-C of the Scheme under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).

(iii) Announcement of lending products for PM-KUSUM scheme by a number of commercial banks.

The above instruments have made financing accessible to the farmers to partially meet their contribution for installation of solar pump.
