

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1864
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2022

ROOFTOP SOLAR POWER SYSTEMS

1864. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of and analysed the reason for low take-off of rooftop solar power system in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any subsidy element is being proposed for rooftop solar project, especially in rural areas where the energy supply is not dependable; and
- (d) the efforts being made by Government to popularise rooftop solar system in the country in coordination with the State Governments?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a)to(d) To promote rooftop solar (RTS) in the country including in rural areas, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing Rooftop Solar Programme Phase II. The implementation guidelines for the Programme were issued in August 2019.

For individual households, Central Financial Assistance (CFA) upto 40% of the benchmark cost is provided for the first 3 kW capacity of RTS plants and upto 20% of the benchmark cost for capacity beyond 3 kW and upto 10 kW. For Group Housing Societies/Residential Welfare Associations (GHS/RWA), CFA is upto 20% of the benchmark cost for RTS plants of capacity upto 500 kW used for supply of power to common facilities. Total 4000 MW capacity is targeted in the residential sector under the Programme by 2022 against which around 1385 MW have been installed in approximately 3.38 lakh households.

The progress in Phase-II was significantly affected due to Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, there are certain issues faced during implementation of Programme, these include delay in tendering process by DISCOMs, less number of empanelled vendors, vendors complaining delay in release of subsidy by DISCOMs, the DISCOMs taking long time to upload reports and other documentations for release of subsidy from Ministry, etc.

To address these issues, Ministry has issued procedure for simplification of Rooftop Solar Programme. Under simplified procedure, interested residential consumers from any part of the country can apply on a National Portal for rooftop solar without waiting for DISCOM to finalise tender. The consumer will have the choice to select any vendor registered with DISCOMs and choose quality and efficiency of solar equipment. The rate of rooftop solar plant will be decided mutually by vendor and the consumer. The subsidy is fixed and same for the entire country. DISCOMs role will be limited to issuing technical feasibility approval, installation of net-meter and inspection of the system. After installation and inspection of the system, subsidy will be released directly in the bank account of the consumer. All the process starting from registration of application till the release of subsidy can be tracked online in the portal. The vendor registration process has also been made simple.
