

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2597
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2024

EFFECTIVENESS OF SOLAR POWER PROJECTS

2597. SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the effectiveness of existing solar power projects in Punjab and their impact on local communities and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there are any plans/proposals to increase funding for biomass energy projects in Punjab to address environmental concerns related to stubble burning and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government is considering partnership with the private sector to increase deployment of renewable energy technologies in Punjab and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)**

(a) As per the inputs from Punjab Energy Development Agency, the assessment of effectiveness of existing solar power projects is a continuous process. The impact of solar power projects on the local communities includes monetary benefits in form of land lease rent, generation of local employment etc.

(b) The Government has notified the National Bioenergy Programme in November, 2022 for a period up to 31.03.2026. This Programme supports setting up of biomass related projects namely, Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants, non-bagasse cogeneration plants and briquette/pellet manufacturing plants by providing Central Financial Assistance (CFA) in the country including the State of Punjab. These biomass plants use agricultural residue including paddy straw as one of their feedstocks. So far, 16 projects have been commissioned under this programme in the State of Punjab.

Further, the Government in July 2024, has enhanced the CFA for manufacturing of non-torrefied and torrefied pellets to Rs. 21 lakh/MTPH or 30% of the capital cost per MTPH and Rs. 42 lakh/MTPH or 30% of the capital cost per MTPH respectively, in the country including the State of Punjab.

(c) Most renewable energy projects, in the country including the State of Punjab are developed through private investment.
