

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2724
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2024

SOLAR ALLIANCE INFLUENCE

2724. SMT. APARAJITA SARANGI

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to expand International Solar Alliance (ISA's) influence in the region like Middle East, South Asia and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of steps being taken by the Government to facilitate technological collaboration and knowledge transfer between India and other member countries for ISA;
- (c) whether the Government has made any collaboration with international financial institutions such as World Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) or Green Climate Fund to channel financing for ISA projects since the last year and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the step being taken by the Government to ensure transparency and accountability in the execution of solar projects under the ISA?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform co-founded by India and France and is the first inter-governmental treaty based international organization headquartered in India. India, which has been the President of the ISA since its inception in 2018, has continuously advocated ISA's membership in discussions with various countries. Consequently, at present, ISA has a total of 104 member countries. These countries, *inter-alia*, include United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kingdom of Bahrain, Syria, Yemen from the Middle East and Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal from South Asia. Another 16 signatory countries are in the process to ratify the framework agreement to attain full membership status including Israel and Lebanon.

(b) In order to develop and deploy cost-effective and transformational solar energy solutions in member countries, ISA under India's Presidency, has developed thematic programmes which, *inter-alia*, include the following:

- i. Scaling up Solar Applications for Agricultural Use
- ii. Affordable Finance at Scale
- iii. Scaling up Solar Mini-Grids
- iv. Scaling Rooftop Solar
- v. Scaling Solar E-Mobility and Storage
- vi. Solar Parks
- vii. Solarising Heating and Cooling Systems
- viii. Solar PV Battery and Waste Management
- ix. Solar for Green Hydrogen

Further, the ISA, through the Solar Technology Applications Resource Centres (STAR-Cs) for research, training and development activities, has trained participants on various aspects of solar energy.

(c) As a member country and President of ISA Assembly, India supports ISA's efforts for mobilizing finances for its activities. ISA has received about USD 8.98 Million since 2021 from global foundations and other international organisations. In-kind contributions have also been received from the Asian Development Bank, the European Commission and the IBSA Fund for implementing various projects and activities in the ISA Member Countries.

(d) During the recently held 7th Assembly meeting of ISA, India, as a member country, has supported the formation of ISA Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Policy. The purpose of this Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Policy is to set guidelines and processes for effective planning, measuring, reporting and evaluating the work of International Solar Alliance (ISA). The policy helps track progress towards agreed results; ensures mutual accountability; and facilitates informed decision-making and learning.