

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has informed that issue pertaining to Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) on renewable energy generated beyond the purchase obligation is under consideration of the Commission. This issue can be addressed through amendments in the relevant regulations, which is a quasi-judicial process and the Commission takes a view on the need for amendments after following due process including public hearing.

Setting up of off-shore farms to harness wind energy

2281. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee has suggested that offshore farms, to harness wind energy, may be set up in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had constituted an offshore wind energy steering committee to develop offshore wind energy in a planned manner; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Preliminary estimates suggest offshore wind energy potential in certain parts of the country.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government has constituted Offshore Wind Energy Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, MNRE to look into various aspects of offshore wind energy projects in a focused manner.

Joint venture with Spain on renewable energy

2282. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has entered into any agreement with Spain to enhance research, cooperation and technologies in the field of renewable energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the details of joint Indo-Spain programme launched after signing the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India has signed a "Programme of Cooperation" (POC) with the "Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology" (CDIT), Government of Spain on 23rd November, 2011 as a joint Indo-Spanish Technological Cooperation to promote and fund innovation driven joint R&D collaborative projects in the field of Renewable Energy.

(c) Under Indo-Spanish Programme of Cooperation (POC), a joint call for research proposals was launched in June, 2012. MNRE and CDIT have selected two projects, out of the nine proposals received, for providing financial support for projects related to the wind power forecasting and quantum dot solar cells fabrication.

Potential of solar energy

2283. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the present estimated potentials of solar energy in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that general public is not using solar gadgets for utilizing solar energy because the gadgets are very costly;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) what action Government proposes to take to ensure that more and more people use solar energy for their day to day works?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) The daily average solar energy incident varies from 4 -7 kWh per square meter resulting in generating nearly 50 MWp per square kilo meter depending upon the location in the country.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. 9,38,345 solar lanterns, 9,30,471 solar home lights and 8826 solar water pumping system have been installed by individuals in the country under the Ministry's Off-grid Solar PV programme till 31.1.2013.

(d) Under the Off-grid and Decentralized Solar Applications Scheme of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, the Ministry provides a subsidy of 30% of the project cost ranging from Rs. 39/- to Rs. 81/- per watt peak for off-grid SPV systems and power plants depending on their capacity and configuration in the country.