7

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

(2024-25)

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

[Action taken by the Government on observations/recommendations contained in the Second Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy]

SEVENTH REPORT

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

July, 2025/ Shravan, 1947 (Saka)

SEVENTH REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
(2024-25)

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

[*Action taken by the Government on observations/recommendations contained in the Second Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy*]

Presented to the Lok Sabha on 4th August, 2025

Laid in the Rajya Sabha on 5th August, 2025

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

July, 2025/ Shravan, 1947 (Saka)

C O E NO. 385

Price:

Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Sixteenth Edition) and Printed by_____.

CONTENTS

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY (2024-25)

LOK SABHA

Shri Shrirang Appa Barne - Chairperson

2. Shri Shyamkumar Daulat Barve
3. Shri Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia
4. Shri Devusinh Chauhan
5. Shri Shahu Shahaji Chhatrapati
6. Captain Brijesh Chowta
7. Shri Malaiyarasan D.
8. Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi
9. Dr. Shivaji Bandappa Kalge
10. Dr. Kirsan Namdeo
11. Shri Nilesh Dnyandev Lanke
12. Shri Dulu Mahato
13. Shri Ramprit Mandal
14. Smt. Bijuli Kalita Medhi
15. Shri Jagdambika Pal
16. Shri Kunduru Raghuveer
17. Smt. Shambhavi
18. Shri Chandubhai Chhaganbhai Shihora
19. Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde
20. Shri Abhay Kumar Sinha
21. Smt. Dimple Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Gulam Ali
23. Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya*
24. Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee
25. Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan
26. Shri R. Dharmar
27. Shri N.R. Elango
28. Shri Javed Ali Khan
29. Shri Harsh Mahajan
30. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
31. Shri Rajeev Shukla

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora	Director
3.	Shri Ajitesh Singh	Deputy Secretary
4.	Ms. Madhumita	Assistant Committee Officer

**Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya ceased to be Member of the Committee consequent upon his retirement from Rajya Sabha on 14th June, 2025. He has been re-nominated as a Member of the Committee w.e.f. 24th July, 2025.*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Energy, having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Seventh Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Second Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

2. The Second Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 10th December, 2024 and was laid on table of the Rajya Sabha on the same day. Replies of the Government to the observations/recommendations contained in this Report were received on 4th February, 2025.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 30th July, 2025.

4. An Analysis of action-taken by the Government on the observations/ recommendations contained in the Second Report (18th Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given at Appendix-II.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

New Delhi;
30th July, 2025
Shravan 8, 1947 (Saka)

Shrirang Appa Barne
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Energy

CHAPTER –I

This Report of the Standing Committee on Energy deals with action-taken by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

2. The Second Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 10th December, 2024 and was laid on table of the Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Report contained 11 Observations/Recommendations.

3. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Report have been received from the Government. These have been categorized as follows:

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:
Serial Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

Total - 11
Chapter-II

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:

Nil

Total - 00
Chapter-III

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:

Nil

Total - 00
Chapter-IV

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the final replies of the Government are still awaited:

Nil

Total - 00
Chapter-V

4. The Committee further desire that Action-taken Statement on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I of this Report be furnished to the Committee within three months of the presentation of this Report.

5. The Committee will now deal with action-taken by the Government on some of their Observations/Recommendations that require reiteration or merit comments.

Recommendation No. 1

6. The Committee had recommended as under:

> "The Committee note that the Ministry had projected the budgetary requirement of Rs. 12,001.70 crore for the financial year 2024-25 and Rs. 21,230 crore has actually been allocated which is an increase of about 170% against Revised Estimates of last year. This amount includes Rs. 19,100 crore as Budget Estimates and Rs. 2,130 crore from Sovereign Green Fund. The Committee observe that about 87% budget of the Ministry is allocated for only one component i.e. Solar Energy. Under Solar Energy component itself, about 72% of the budget is for implementation of only one scheme i.e. PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. About 4% of the budget has been allocated for clearing past liabilities related to wind and small hydro projects. National Bioenergy Programme has been allocated about 1% of the budget. National Green Hydrogen Mission and Green Energy Corridor have been allocated a budget of about 3% each. The remaining about 2% of the Budget has been allocated for Establishment Expenditure, Autonomous Bodies and Support Programme including Research and Development. For 2024-25, the Ministry has been allocated a budget which is about 77% higher than its demand. This is the highest ever budgetary allocation for the Ministry till date. Since the Budgetary allocation of the Ministry for 2024-25 has been considerably enhanced as compared to the previous years, the Committee hope that the Ministry would increase its fund absorption capacity and focus on exhaustive utilization of the budgetary allocation in a timely manner."

7 . In its action-taken reply, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has stated as under:

"Union Cabinet had approved the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana on 29th February, 2024 with a total outlay of Rs.75,021 crore for installing rooftop solar for one crore households in the country by 2026-27. As the budget proposals for 2024-25 of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) were formulated in Sep-Oct, 2023 i.e. long before the approval of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, enhanced allocation of Rs.21,230 crore was provided for MNRE in BE 2024-25 including for PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Under Revised Estimates 2024-25, the allocation of the Ministry has been kept at Rs.17,298.44 crore.

The umbrella-wise details of Revised Estimates (RE) for 2024-25 and no. of programmes covered under each umbrella are given below:

Umbrella	**Schemes/programmes**	**RE 2024-25 (Rs. in crore)**
I. Solar Energy	PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana	11,100.00
	PM-KUSUM	2525.00
	Solar Power (Grid) *(CPSU, Solar Park, Defence/Indo Park, PMDAP Ladakh, RPSSGP & Demo GBI, VGF, GCRT*)	1300.00
	Solar Power (Off-grid)	12.00
	Interest payment and issuing Expense on bonds	124.35
II. Bio Energy Programme	Bio Power (Grid)	0
	Bio Power (Off-grid)	125.00
	Biogas Programme	60.00
III. Programme for Wind other Renewable Energy	Wind Power (Grid)	800.00
	Hydro Power (Grid)	45.00
	Hydro Power (Off-grid)	1.00
IV. Support	Human Resource Development and	30.00

Programme	Training	
	Research and Development	30.00
	Information & Public Advertising (I&PA	8.00
	Monitoring & Evaluation	0.01
	International Relations	3.00
	International Solar Alliance (ISA) Cooperation	100.00
V. Hydrogen Mission	National Green Hydrogen Mission	300.00
VI. Storage and Transmission	Green Energy Corridor	600.00
VII. Autonomous Bodies	Institutes	62.50
VIII. Secretariat Economic Services	Administrative Expenses	72.58
Total		**17298.44**

As on 31.12.2024, a total expenditure of Rs.10,510.34 crore has been incurred, which is around 61% of the total Revised Estimates (RE) allocation of the Ministry.

The Ministry has duly noted the suggestions of the Committee to increase its fund absorption capacity. The following steps have also been taken by MNRE in this regard:

- All the Programme Divisions have been asked to work proactively with States/State Nodal Agencies (SNAs)/Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs) to ensure that bills are raised by them timely.
- The expenditure status is regularly monitored at apex level. It is also discussed in each Senior Officers' meeting in the Ministry and necessary directions are given to all concerned to ensure that funds are released in time.

- As and when need for amendment in the schemes guidelines to ensure smooth execution of any scheme is observed, it is being carried out as per prescribed procedure."

8. As per information provided by the Ministry, the Committee note that around 39% of the budget under Revised Estimates (RE) of the financial year 2024-25 remained to be spent during the last quarter of 2024-25. The Committee are of the view that leaving such a high proportion of funds for expenditure during the last quarter is not a good budgetary management practice as it points towards the tendency of "March Rush". At the same time, the Committee do recognize that most of the budget of the Ministry is disbursed as Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to States/State Nodal Agencies (SNAs) for implementation of the schemes of the Ministry. This means that the disbursement of any amount by the Ministry is dependent upon the performance of the implementing agencies as it is linked to the scheme specifications viz. generation of bills, final inspection reports etc. The Committee also acknowledge the measures taken by the Ministry for ensuring timely generation of bills by implementing agencies and undertaking regular monitoring at apex level as well as carrying out amendments in scheme guidelines, when needed. However, given India's ambitious commitments towards development of renewable energy, the Committee feel that the Ministry should supervise the implementation of its schemes/programmes in a more focused manner by closely engaging with the States/SNAs so that disbursement of CFA can be made timely.

Recommendation No. 5

9. The Committee had recommended as under:

"The Committee note that PM-KUSUM Scheme was launched in March, 2019 to provide financial support to the farmers for installation of standalone solar pumps, solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps and also to provide the farmers an opportunity to become solar entrepreneurs by installing solar power plants on their barren/fallow agriculture land. The Committee observe

that targets under different components of the Scheme could not be achieved and hence its timeline has been extended till March, 2026. The Ministry has stated that the reasons for slow progress under the scheme include lack of financing to farmers under Component-A, delay in tendering process and lack of interest by States under Component-B and lack of interest by farmers in individual pump solarization under Component-C. To overcome these issues, the Ministry has undertaken certain measures like inclusion of Component-A under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), allowing State-level tender for procurement of standalone pumps, including system integrators to work as vendors, solarization of agriculture feeders instead of individual pumps under Component-C etc. The Committee while acknowledging the developments made, would also like to recommend that:

i) Component-A as part of the scheme should be revisited by the Ministry as the investment required to setup a 2MW solar power plant is around Rs. 9 crore which is huge by all means, especially for marginal and small farmers. Further, there is no subsidy on this component.

ii) With regard to Component-B, the subsidy is only upto 7.5 Horsepower (HP) solar pumps which is proving to be insufficient for farmers. Given the fact that many districts of India has become water-deficient, 7.5 HP pump capacity is not suitable for all regions. Therefore, the Ministry may conduct a detailed study to understand the ground situation and accordingly modify the component.

iii) With regard to Component-C, only around 37 thousand pumps have been solarised even though more than 33 lakh pumps have been sanctioned. Therefore, the Ministry may see to it that long gestation period of more than 18 months is reduced and the sanctioned pumps actually reach the farmers on time."

10. In its action-taken reply, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has stated as under:

"The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has noted the valuable recommendations made by the Committee for compliance and efforts are underway to implement the same. Further to make PM KUSUM more accessible to farmers and to achieve targets set under the scheme following actions are being taken:

(i) Under Component A of the scheme, solar plant can be installed by the farmers on his own land either directly by himself or in partnership

with group of farmers/ cooperatives/ panchayats/ Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO)/Water User associations (WUA), or through a developer. Under this scheme, DISCOM is eligible to get Performance Based Incentive (PBI) @ Rs. 0.40 per unit purchased or Rs. 6.6 lakh per MW of capacity installed.

Recently the Cabinet has approved the coverage of Component A of PM KUSUM under Agriculture Infrastructure Funds (AIF). This will further enable the access of easy and affordable finance to small and marginal farmers to install solar plants up to 2 MW under Component A of the scheme.

(ii) During FY 2022-23, a proposal to increase the capacity up to 15 HP under Component B of the scheme was submitted to Ministry of Finance, however the request of Ministry for allowing Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for 15 HP capacity pumps in arid and semi-arid zones was not approved. However, CFA for pumps up to 15 HP was permitted for North-Eastern and Himalayan States, considering their topography and requirement of Community farming in High Water Table Areas, with the restriction that the total number of pumps up to 15 HP would not be more than 10% of the total allocation. The Ministry is taking steps to implement the scheme at faster pace. For ease of implementation, the scheme guidelines were revised in January 2024.

(iii) Under PM KUSUM, the progress is reviewed regularly and the capacities are reallocated to other States, if there is no progress or unsatisfactory progress. The scheme gestation period is 24 months out of which maximum of 18 months are given for installation work after issuance of Letter of Award. This has been done in accordance with the requests received from States, indicating the ground challenges for installation work due to land availability, right of way, monsoon period etc.

However, the scheme has gained momentum and States have reported installation work. As on 31.12.2024, all the targeted quantities of 35 lakh pumps under Component C have beenallocated to States, tenders have been done and LOAs have been issued for all the capacities. States have reported that PPAs have been signed for 20.7 lakh pumps, and more than 0.86 lakh pumps have been solarized so far. With ongoing progress, all efforts are made to ensure that installation would be completed before the scheme deadline and farmers would get assured daytime power under this Component."

11. The Committee note that the Ministry's request for allowing Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for 15 horse power (HP) capacity

pumps in arid and semi-arid zones was not approved by the Ministry of Finance during the financial year 2022-23. However, the same was allowed for North-Eastern and Himalayan States, subject to the condition that the total number of pumps up to 15 HP would not be more than 10% of the total allocation. The Committee have been highlighting the issue of dark zones i.e. areas where the ground water table has declined to lower levels, where the 7.5 HP water pumps have become ineffective. Therefore, the Committee would like to re-emphasize their recommendation that a detailed study be carried out to understand the current situation of the ground water in different parts of the country, particularly the water-deficient areas. The results of the said study may be shared with the Committee as well.

Recommendation No. 6

12. The Committee had recommended as under:

> "The Committee note that the National Bioenergy Programme has a provision of Central Financial Assistance for setting up of Bioenergy projects in the country under the three components of Biomass, Waste to Energy and Biogas Programmes. The Committee observe budgetary mismanagement under the programme whereby the allocation has been reduced at revised stage over the years. The reduction is significant in 2023-24 when the estimated amount of Rs. 381.85 crore was reduced by a huge 80% to only Rs. 75 crore at revised stage. Even after this huge reduction, the entire amount was not utilized. Under-utilization has also been a persistent issue under this programme. The Committee, therefore, would like to recommend prioritization of this much needed programme and timely disbursement of the subsidy to encourage private developers to invest and develop Bioenergy sector. The Committee note that the increased prices of construction materials is proving costly for developing biogas plants in rural areas. The Committee feel that a part of the subsidy may be given in advance to encourage biogas development in rural areas. "

13. In its action-taken reply, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has stated as under:

> "Biomass and Waste to Energy Projects usually takes 2 to 3 years for completion. The Central Financial Assistance (CFA) is disbursed

after commissioning of the plant, its performance inspection, and meeting other conditions of the Scheme guidelines. The Ministry is taking all possible steps to release the CFA claims in the shortest possible time. In order to ease out the process of CFA disbursal, revision of guidelines is under process. Besides the construction based model of biogas plants, there are flexible ready to install models available at reduced cost and time for installation. For installation of small biogas plants, CFA is released in advance to State Programme Implementing Agencies, so that there is minimum delay in disbursal of the CFA to beneficiaries of small biogas plants. In the current FY, the details of allocation and expenditure till 31.12.2024 is given below:''

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Scheme	Allocation (Revised Estimates)	Expenditure (till 31.12.2024)
National Bioenergy Programme	185.00	114.04

14. The Committee note that the expenditure by the Ministry under its National Bioenergy Programme (NBA) during the financial year 2024-25 has been dissatisfactory as around 39% of the budget remained to be spent during the last quarter of 2024-25. The Ministry has informed the Committee during February, 2025, that to ease out the process of disbursal of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) under NBA, it is undertaking revision of scheme guidelines and the Committee would like to appreciate the Ministry for the same. The Committee would also like to believe that since four months have passed since the Ministry informed the Committee about the revision process, the same may have been completed by now and therefore, the Committee expect disbursals under NBA during the current financial year of 2025-26 to move as per quarterly expenditure mandate of the Ministry of Finance.

CHAPTER –II

Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government

Recommendation No. 1

Budget Allocation and Utilization

The Committee note that the Ministry had projected the budgetary requirement of Rs. 12,001.70 crore for the financial year 2024-25 and Rs. 21,230 crore has actually been allocated which is an increase of about 170% against Revised Estimates of last year. This amount includes Rs. 19,100 crore as Budget Estimates and Rs. 2,130 crore from Sovereign Green Fund. The Committee observe that about 87% budget of the Ministry is allocated for only one component i.e. Solar Energy. Under Solar Energy component itself, about 72% of the budget is for implementation of only one scheme i.e. PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. About 4% of the budget has been allocated for clearing past liabilities related to wind and small hydro projects. National Bioenergy Programme has been allocated about 1% of the budget. National Green Hydrogen Mission and Green Energy Corridor have been allocated a budget of about 3% each. The remaining about 2% of the Budget has been allocated for Establishment Expenditure, Autonomous Bodies and Support Programme including Research and Development. For 2024-25, the Ministry has been allocated a budget which is about 77% higher than its demand. This is the highest ever budgetary allocation for the Ministry till date. Since the Budgetary allocation of the Ministry for 2024-25 has been considerably enhanced as compared to the previous years, the Committee hope that the Ministry would increase its fund absorption capacity and focus on exhaustive utilization of the budgetary allocation in a timely manner.

Reply of the Government

Union Cabinet had approved the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana on 29th February, 2024 with a total outlay of Rs.75,021 crore for installing rooftop solar for one crore households in the country by 2026-27. As the budget proposals for 2024-25 of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) were formulated in Sep-Oct, 2023 i.e. long before the approval of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, enhanced allocation of Rs.21,230 crore was provided for MNRE in BE 2024-25 including for PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Under Revised Estimates 2024-25, the allocation of the Ministry has been kept at Rs.17,298.44 crore.

The umbrella-wise details of Revised Estimates (RE) for 2024-25 and no. of programmes covered under each umbrella are given below:

Umbrella	**Schemes/programmes**	**RE 2024-25 (Rs. in crore)**
I. Solar Energy	PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana	11,100.00
	PM-KUSUM	2525.00
	Solar Power (Grid) *(CPSU, Solar Park, Defence/Indo Park, PMDAP Ladakh, RPSSGP & Demo GBI, VGF, GCRT*)	1300.00
	Solar Power (Off-grid)	12.00
	Interest payment and issuing Expense on bonds	124.35
II. Bio Energy Programme	Bio Power (Grid)	0
	Bio Power (Off-grid)	125.00
	Biogas Programme	60.00
III. Programme for Wind other Renewable Energy	Wind Power (Grid)	800.00
	Hydro Power (Grid)	45.00
	Hydro Power (Off-grid)	1.00
IV. Support Programme	Human Resource Development and Training	30.00
	Research and Development	30.00
	Information & Public Advertising (I&PA	8.00
	Monitoring & Evaluation	0.01
	International Relations	3.00

	International Solar Alliance (ISA) Cooperation	100.00
V. Hydrogen Mission	National Green Hydrogen Mission	300.00
VI. Storage and Transmission	Green Energy Corridor	600.00
VII. Autonomous Bodies	Institutes	62.50
VIII. Secretariat Economic Services	Administrative Expenses	72.58
Total		**17298.44**

As on 31.12.2024, a total expenditure of Rs.10,510.34 crore has been incurred, which is around 61% of the total Revised Estimates (RE) allocation of the Ministry.

The Ministry has duly noted the suggestions of the Committee to increase its fund absorption capacity. The following steps have also been taken by MNRE in this regard:

- All the Programme Divisions have been asked to work proactively with States/State Nodal Agencies (SNAs)/Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs) to ensure that bills are raised by them timely.
- The expenditure status is regularly monitored at apex level. It is also discussed in each Senior Officers' meeting in the Ministry and necessary directions are given to all concerned to ensure that funds are released in time.
- As and when need for amendment in the schemes guidelines to ensure smooth execution of any scheme is observed, it is being carried out as per prescribed procedure.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 04.02.2025]

Comments of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 8 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 2

Budget Utilization Trends

The Committee note that complete utilization of budgetary allocations by the Ministry over the years has not taken place. The utilization has been about

88%, 82% and 83% in the years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively. The major reasons cited by the Ministry for under-utilization of budgetary allocations include two consecutive waves of COVID and non-receipt of adequate proposals from Northeastern States. The Committee understand the difficulties faced by the Ministry in effective implementation of schemes during COVID waves. With regard to utilization in Northeastern areas, the Committee note the extremely poor utilization at about 13%, 2% and 4% in the years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take concrete steps for proper utilization of budgetary allocations wherever there is a shortfall. For Northeast areas in particular, the Committee feel that it has huge potential for renewable energy and therefore, extra efforts need to be made by the Ministry for exhaustive utilization of funds allocated for its development. The Committee are of the view that the Ministry should hold regular meetings with the Governments of all Northeastern States as well as the stakeholders in renewable energy sector. The Committee feel that incentivization of renewable energy sector in these areas would provide additional impetus to developers to setup renewable energy projects there.

Reply of the Government

The suggestions of the Committee have been duly noted. In order to provide additional impetus to developers to set up renewable energy projects in NER States, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy under its various ongoing schemes is providing higher subsidy to these States for installation of renewable energy projects than general category States, e.g., 10% higher Central Financial Assistance (CFA) under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, 20% higher CFA for component B and Component C of PM KUSUM scheme, and 20% higher CFA under Waste to Energy and Biogas programmes. In order to enhance the fund absorption in the NER States, during the various review meetings taken by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) also, MNRE has been requesting all the NER States to submit proposals under the different schemes and programmes of the Ministry. Hon'ble Minister of New and Renewable Energy in his letter dated 30.12.2024 has also requested the Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region to request the NER States to submit proposals under the different schemes of MNRE, so that the allocation towards NER States could be fully utilized. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has organized Chintan Shivir in Bhubaneswar wherein a special session on Renewable Energy Integration in NE States was alsoheld on 15th November 2024. During December 2024, Hon'ble Minister of New and Renewable Energy

visited Kolkata and Agartala and reviewed the progress of various renewable energy schemes in the NER region.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 04.02.2025]

Recommendation No. 3

PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

The Committee note that PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana has been launched with the aim of installing rooftop solar plants in one crore households. The total financial outlay for the scheme is Rs. 75,021 crore and is to be implemented till 2026-27. An allocation of Rs. 13,175.33 crore has been made for 2024-25. The Committee further note that before this scheme, the Ministry had been implementing the Phase II Rooftop Solar program which has been subsumed under the new scheme. The Committee observe that till date, the schemes for developing solar power has not performed that well, as against the solar potential of 7,48,990 MWp in the country, only 89,432 MW has been installed till 31.08.2024. With the launch of PM Surya Ghar, the Committee hope that the pace of solar installations will gain momentum and the target of 1 crore rooftop solar installations would be achieved. The Committee in their previous reports have often flagged the issues related to rooftop installations and urged the Ministry to take substantive steps to address them. The Committee, therefore, appreciate the Ministry for streamlining the process under PM Surya Ghar i.e. dedicated national portal, easy vendor registration, loan availability for consumers, deemed technical feasibility, time-bound inspection, online grievance redressal tools etc. However, the Committee would like to highlight the slow pace of installations, as only around 5 lakh installations have been done out of around 20 lakh applications made on the portal by October 2024. Out of this 5 lakh installations, subsidy disbursal has been done for only around 3 lakh. The Secretary informed the Committee that the momentum of installation was reduced due to monsoons and it has picked up now. The Committee feel that the Ministry should make concerted efforts to popularize this laudable scheme further, especially highlighting its subsidy component so that large scale consumers are encouraged to adopt it. The Committee also recommend that apart from households and Government buildings, the Ministry may consider including schools, hospitals, small industries and other institutional buildings within the subsidy component of the scheme. This will not only increase the demand in the market but will also bring in private investments,

encourage domestic manufacturing as well as create more job opportunities in solar sector.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has undertaken a multipronged approach to popularize the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, utilizing all communication media like print, digital, outdoor, television, radio, etc., to maximize reach and awareness. This includes widespread newspaper advertisements in major vernacular languages, TV commercials on national and regional TV networks, extensive radio campaigns, and digital promotions via Google Display Network, website banners, etc. Additionally, consumer testimonials, interviews with banking partners, and engaging WhatsApp channels have been used for creating awareness amongst the citizens. The Ministry has also leveraged outdoor visibility through GIFs at railway stations, hoardings and digital cinemas. On-ground activations such as the 'Run for Sun' marathon, Solar Stop kiosks in malls, and Solar art competition have further fostered public engagement. Grassroots activities like Nukkad Nataks have helped spread awareness at the local level, ensuring the scheme reaches a wide and diverse audience across the country.

In addition to the above, the Ministry has been organizing Regional Workshops for creating focused awareness about the components and the benefits of the scheme. The Ministry has also been handholding vendors to facilitate smooth implementation. Regular amplification and relaying of the scheme through social media channels has further broadened its reach. The Ministry has also formulated a Consultative Stakeholder group with eminent partners from Bloomberg, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), World Bank, Asian Development Bank, etc. who are also assisting the Ministry in spearheading awareness component.

For other sectors such as schools, hospitals, small industries, institutional buildings, etc, prevailing electricity tariffs are in range of Rs 7 to 9 per unit, whereas solar power tariff under RESCO mode would be around Rs 5 per unit. Thus, installation of rooftop solar plants in these sectors would be economically viable even without financial assistance from the Government.

As on 31.12.2024, 97,864 MW solar power generation capacity has been installed in the country.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 04.02.2025]

Recommendation No. 4

Model Solar Village

The Committee note that the scheme of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana has a component of Model Solar Village whereby one village is to be selected from each district. This selection would be based on level of solarization within a given six month time and the village so selected will get a central financial assistance of one crore rupees. The Committee appreciate the Ministry for launching this new initiative which will encourage competition among the villages towards adoption of solar energy. However, the Committee are of the view that many districts in India are very large and selecting one village in such large area would not be helpful in creating enough awareness and enthusiasm among the local administration to solarise their villages. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Ministry may consider reducing the level for selection of Model Solar Village like that of a block instead of district.

Reply of the Government

Under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, which was approved by the Cabinet on 29th February, 2024, one of the components of the scheme is to develop Model Solar Village in each district of the country. Ministry has already issued guidelines in this regard in August 2024.

Most of the States have already initiated action for selection of Model Solar Villages as per these guidelines. Scaling-up of this component would require Cabinet's approval. Since this component is already under implementation, it would be appropriate to get the results of the implementation and based on the learnings and feedback from the different stakeholders, a decision to further scale up of the component will be taken.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 04.02.2025]

Recommendation No. 5

PM-KUSUM

The Committee note that PM-KUSUM Scheme was launched in March, 2019 to provide financial support to the farmers for installation of standalone solar pumps, solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps and also to provide the farmers an opportunity to become solar entrepreneurs by installing solar power plants on their barren/fallow agriculture land. The

Committee observe that targets under different components of the Scheme could not be achieved and hence its timeline has been extended till March, 2026. The Ministry has stated that the reasons for slow progress under the scheme include lack of financing to farmers under Component-A, delay in tendering process and lack of interest by States under Component-B and lack of interest by farmers in individual pump solarization under Component-C. To overcome these issues, the Ministry has undertaken certain measures like inclusion of Component-A under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), allowing State-level tender for procurement of standalone pumps, including system integrators to work as vendors, solarization of agriculture feeders instead of individual pumps under Component-C etc. The Committee while acknowledging the developments made, would also like to recommend that:

i) Component-A as part of the scheme should be revisited by the Ministry as the investment required to setup a 2MW solar power plant is around Rs. 9 crore which is huge by all means, especially for marginal and small farmers. Further, there is no subsidy on this component.

ii) With regard to Component-B, the subsidy is only upto 7.5 Horsepower (HP) solar pumps which is proving to be insufficient for farmers. Given the fact that many districts of India has become water-deficient, 7.5 HP pump capacity is not suitable for all regions. Therefore, the Ministry may conduct a detailed study to understand the ground situation and accordingly modify the component.

iii) With regard to Component-C, only around 37 thousand pumps have been solarised even though more than 33 lakh pumps have been sanctioned. Therefore, the Ministry may see to it that long gestation period of more than 18 months is reduced and the sanctioned pumps actually reach the farmers on time.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has noted the valuable recommendations made by the Committee for compliance and efforts are underway to implement the same. Further to make PM KUSUM more accessible to farmers and to achieve targets set under the scheme following actions are being taken:

(i) Under Component A of the scheme, solar plant can be installed by the farmers on his own land either directly by himself or in partnership with group of farmers/ cooperatives/ panchayats/ Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO)/Water User associations (WUA), or through a developer. Under this scheme, DISCOM is eligible to get Performance Based Incentive

(PBI) @ Rs. 0.40 per unit purchased or Rs. 6.6 lakh per MW of capacity installed.

Recently the Cabinet has approved the coverage of Component A of PM KUSUM under Agriculture Infrastructure Funds (AIF). This will further enable the access of easy and affordable finance to small and marginal farmers to install solar plants up to 2 MW under Component A of the scheme.

(ii) During FY 2022-23, a proposal to increase the capacity up to 15 HP under Component B of the scheme was submitted to Ministry of Finance, however the request of Ministry for allowing Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for 15 HP capacity pumps in arid and semi-arid zones was not approved. However, CFA for pumps up to 15 HP was permitted for North-Eastern and Himalayan States, considering their topography and requirement of Community farming in High Water Table Areas, with the restriction that the total number of pumps up to 15 HP would not be more than 10% of the total allocation. The Ministry is taking steps to implement the scheme at faster pace. For ease of implementation, the scheme guidelines were revised in January 2024.

(iii) Under PM KUSUM, the progress isreviewed regularly and the capacities are reallocated to other States, if there is no progress or unsatisfactory progress. The scheme gestation period is 24 months out of which maximum of 18 months are given for installation work after issuance of Letter of Award. This has been done in accordance with the requests received from States, indicating the ground challenges for installation work due to land availability, right of way, monsoon period etc.

However, the scheme has gained momentum and States have reported installation work. As on 31.12.2024, all the targeted quantities of 35 lakh pumps under Component C have beenallocated to States, tenders have been done and LOAs have been issued for all the capacities. States have reported that PPAs have been signed for 20.7 lakh pumps, and more than 0.86 lakh pumps have been solarized so far. With ongoing progress, all efforts are made to ensure that installation would be completed before the scheme deadline and farmers would get assured daytime power under this Component.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 04.02.2025]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 11 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 6

National Bioenergy Programme

The Committee note that the National Bioenergy Programme has a provision of Central Financial Assistance for setting up of Bioenergy projects in the country under the three components of Biomass, Waste to Energy and Biogas Programmes. The Committee observe budgetary mismanagement under the programme whereby the allocation has been reduced at revised stage over the years. The reduction is significant in 2023-24 when the estimated amount of Rs. 381.85 crore was reduced by a huge 80% to only Rs. 75 crore at revised stage. Even after this huge reduction, the entire amount was not utilized. Under-utilization has also been a persistent issue under this programme. The Committee, therefore, would like to recommend prioritization of this much needed programme and timely disbursement of the subsidy to encourage private developers to invest and develop Bioenergy sector. The Committee note that the increased prices of construction materials is proving costly for developing biogas plants in rural areas. The Committee feel that a part of the subsidy may be given in advance to encourage biogas development in rural areas.

Reply of the Government

Biomass and Waste to Energy Projects usually takes 2 to 3 years for completion. The Central Financial Assistance (CFA) is disbursed after commissioning of the plant, its performance inspection, and meeting other conditions of the Scheme guidelines. The Ministry is taking all possible steps to release the CFA claims in the shortest possible time. In order to ease out the process of CFA disbursal, revision of guidelines is under process. Besides the construction based model of biogas plants, there are flexible ready to install models available at reduced cost and time for installation. For installation of small biogas plants, CFA is released in advance to State Programme Implementing Agencies, so that there is minimum delay in disbursal of the CFA to beneficiaries of small biogas plants. In the current FY, the details of allocation and expenditure till 31.12.2024 is given below:

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Scheme	Allocation (Revised Estimates)	Expenditure (till 31.12.2024)
National Bioenergy Programme	185.00	114.04

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 04.02.2025]

Comments of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 14 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 7

Wind Energy

The Committee note the Ministry's submission that the potential of offshore wind power in the country is around 70 GW in the two zones of Gujarat coast and Tamil Nadu coast. The first tender for development of 500 MW of offshore wind energy capacity off the coast of Gujarat supported by a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme has been issued by the Government. The Ministry has informed the Committee that the tender for development of offshore wind energy capacity off the coast of Tamil Nadu will also be issued soon. The Committee also note that the Ministry's plan of leasing out 4 GW equivalent of offshore wind seabed for studies/surveys in 2024-25 and subsequent project development under Open Access Mode. The Committee are aware that earlier the technology for developing offshore wind power was available only with developed countries and therefore, appreciate the Ministry for finally taking the leap towards developing offshore wind energy within the country. The Committee expect the development of offshore wind power to move as per plan without any further delay. The Committee urge the Ministry to dedicate a special team to closely monitor its development and resolve bottlenecks timely in order to achieve the targets on time. The Ministry has furnished that manufacturing capacity in wind is mature in the country with 14 big manufacturers capable of adding around 18 GW annually. However, the Committee note that critical components like gear box, bearings etc. are still being imported. The Committee, therefore, recommend that adequate measures be taken by the Ministry to facilitate the development and indigenization of entire technology related to offshore wind energy generation. Further, the Committee are of the view that evacuation and grid integration of this power should also be planned in advance by the Ministry.

Reply of the Government

A dedicated cell for offshore wind, i.e. Offshore Wind Energy Cell, has been constituted in the Ministry to perform/ carry out the following activities:

a. Signing of Lease Agreements and management of the lease.

b. Drafting of consenting and contractual documents such as Lease Agreement, Concessionaire Agreement, Project Implementation Agreement, Grid Connectivity Agreement, Transmission Service Agreement, etc.

c. Coordination with Central Transmission Utility (CTU) for development of offshore and onshore power evacuation system and grid infrastructure planning.

d. Drafting of guidelines for implementation of offshore wind projects (with or without financial support).

e. Coordination with National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) for Guidelines for study/survey and project clearances.

f. Procedures for getting site clearances.

g. Co-ordination with various ministries/departments for project clearances.

h. Co-ordination with Port authorities for ports development.

i. Monitoring the execution/milestones achievements of the offshore wind projects.

j. Any other activities related to offshore wind.

Ministry has issued a 'Strategy for Establishments of Offshore Wind Energy projects' indicating an auction trajectory of 37 GW capacity/sites by 2030 under various business models for project development (Revision issued on 26 Sept 2023). This pipeline is expected to attract investment and create ecosystem in the country. In addition, Union Cabinet approved 'Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for 1 GW offshore wind energy projects, with a total outlay of ₹ 7453 crore, in order to create an ecosystem for development of offshore wind energy projects in the country including manufacturing of offshore wind turbines & its components and development of an offshore logistic infrastructure for handling very heavy and over dimensional cargos.

Further, with regard to planning of evacuation and grid integration of offshore wind power, Central Transmission Utility (CTU) has planned to develop transmission and evacuation infrastructure up to the offshore substation (including the offshore substation) for initial 10 GW projects (5 GW each off the coast of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu) under ISTS network.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 04.02.2025]

Recommendation No. 8

Small Hydro Power (SHP)

The Committee note that small hydro power programme was discontinued w.e.f. 31st March, 2017 and since then, the budget allocations have been used to clear old liabilities only. The Ministry has submitted before the Committee that it has been trying to come up with a new programme for small hydro power since 2017 but the same could not materialize for one or the other reasons. This year again, the approval of the new SHP scheme, which has been recommended by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), is awaited. The Committee, therefore recommend that the Ministry should critically review its performance under the previous small hydro power programme and ensure that the factors which hindered the implementation of the programme are properly addressed in the new scheme.

Reply of the Government

Note for approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Small Hydro Power scheme was submitted to PMO and Cabinet Secretariat on 21.10.2024. A meeting was held with PMO and based on the discussions, a fresh Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) memorandum is under preparation. Further, the recommendations of the Committee have been duly noted and suitable incorporations will be made in the proposed scheme.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 04.02.2025]

Recommendation No. 9

Green Energy Corridor (GEC)

The Committee note that the Intra-State GEC project was started in 2015 with a total target of 9767 circuit kilometers (ckm) transmission lines and 22689 mega-volt ampere (MVA) sub-stations. Phase-I of Intra-State GEC which is being implemented by the State Transmission Utilities (STUs) of 8 States has been delayed and given multiple extensions. The Committee observe that a total of 9135 ckm of transmission lines have been constructed and a total of 21313 MVA substations have been charged as on 31st July, 2024. The

Ministry has submitted that all the projects have been completed in Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. The remaining States – Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra have requested for further extension up to December 2024 and Gujarat has requested for further extension up to March 2025. Since 9 years have lapsed after the start of the Project, the Committee hope that this will be the last extension and this Project will finally be completed by March, 2025. It has also been submitted that Phase–II of Intra-State GEC is being implemented by State Transmission Utilities of 7 States (Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh) for addition of 10753 ckm of transmission lines and 27546 MVA of substations and it is scheduled to be completed by FY 2025-26. Further, the Ministry has furnished that an Inter-State Transmission System would be set up for power evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW RE projects along with 12 GWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Ladakh. The project is being setup by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) at a total cost of Rs. 20,773.70 crore. Under this project, 1268 ckm transmission lines and two nos. of HVDC terminals of 5000 MW capacity each would be setup. The project is anticipated to be completed by FY 2029-30. In order to ensure that Phase-II of Intra-State GEC and Inter-State Transmission project in Ladakh do not get delayed like the Phase-I, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take into account the reasons for delayed implementation of Phase-I and proactively persuade the concerned States as well as other stakeholders from the initial stage itself to ensure timely completion of these projects. Being the dominant player in transmission sector, the Committee expect PGCIL to have the technological knowhow and manpower to execute the Ladakh project within the given budget and timeline. The Committee recommend the Ministry to closely monitor both the projects for their timely completion.

Reply of the Government

The phase-I of Green Energy Corridor has been delayed in four States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra, due to various reasons such as Right of Way (RoW) issues, delay in issuing tenders because of delay in substation land acquisition, delay in award of works due to low bid turnout in various projects which resulted in retendering several times, court cases including Great Indian Bustard (GIB) matter, forest

clearances, etc. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra have given further extension up to December 2024 and Gujarat has been given further extension up to March 2025. Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra have further sought extension upto June, 2025 which is being considered in the Ministry. The Ministry has been repeatedly impressing upon the States to expedite completion of the projects under this phase.

Phase-II of GEC scheme is scheduled to be completed by FY 2025-26. So far out of total 91 packages, 72 packages have been tendered. Out of this, 51 packages have been awarded.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is closely monitoring the Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) for power evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW renewable energy projects along with a 12 GWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Ladakh, ensuring strict adherence to timelines. As of now, for HVDC terminal stations at Pang and Kaithal, the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) was issued on July 18, 2024, with bid submission extended nine times, receiving no bids under Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB). Now, Ministry of Power has provided approval to switch from DCB to Global Competitive Bidding (GCB) on December 27, 2024, and retendering is planned shortly. For the 220 kV AC line (Pang-Phyang) transmission line, NIT was issued on August 30, 2024. Land acquisition is underway, with 300 acres at Pang under possession. Strengthening of road/bridge infrastructure is being coordinated with Border Roads Organisation and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. LIDAR surveys are progressing, pre-engineered buildings at Pang are under construction, and weather acclimatization and mountaineering training programs have been planned to prepare manpower for harsh conditions.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 04.02.2025]

Recommendation No. 10

National Green Hydrogen Mission

The Committee note that the National Green Hydrogen Mission has been approved with an outlay of Rs. 19,744 crore and an amount of Rs. 600 crore has been allocated for this Mission for financial year 2024-25. The Mission aims to make India a global hub for production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives. It is expected to help India in becoming

energy independent and in decarbonisation of major sectors of the economy thereby eventually facilitating the country to meet the target of Net-Zero by 2070. The Committee note that the Mission aims to achieve 5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of Green Hydrogen production capacity with an associated renewable energy capacity of about 125 GW by the year 2030. The Committee observe that the Mission is at a nascent stage with contracts being awarded and actual production has not started yet. The Committee, while appreciating the Government for launching this aspirational Mission, would like to recommend that advance planning for efficient resource utilisation like water should be ensured. Further, indigenisation of technology and processes should be the major goal to make green hydrogen truly affordable in the long run.

Reply of the Government

For the production of 1 kg of Green Hydrogen via electrolysis, around 8 to 10 litres of de-ionised water is required. The objective of the mission is to produce at least 5 million metric tonnes per annum of Green Hydrogen by 2030. This means around 50 billion litres of de-ionised water or around 75 billion litres of fresh water will be required annually. This is a small fraction as compared to the fresh water potential of India which is estimated to be 11,23,000 billion litres. This quantity of fresh water is same as the water needed for about 6 GW of thermal power plant. As on December, 2024, the total thermal power plant capacity in India is over 244 GW.

Further, as per the industry feedback, most of the Green Hydrogen production plants are expected to come up near the ports, where desalinated sea water is likely to be used for Green Hydrogen production. Furthermore, since water is a State subject, the project developers will have to comply with the State regulations for securing the water supply.

To promote the indigenization of technology and processes, the Government has taken following steps:

- Out of the 3,000 MW per annum of electrolyser manufacturing capacity awarded under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Scheme, 700 MW per annum is for the indigenously developed stack technology. This accounts for around 23% of the total capacity awarded under the scheme.
- 3 pilot projects have been awarded for use of hydrogen in the Steel sector.
- 4 pilot projects have been finalized in the Transport sector to develop 36 vehicles and 8 hydrogen re-fueling stations.

- R&D Projects are being awarded to promote the research and development for Green Hydrogen technology in India.

Above activities are expected to boost indigenization of technology and processes to make Green Hydrogen truly affordable in the long run.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 04.02.2025]

Recommendation No. 11

New Technologies, Research and Development in Renewable Energy Sector

The Committee note that for undertaking research and development (R&D) and developing new technologies in Renewable Energy (RE) sector, BE of Rs. 75 crore in 2021-22 was reduced to Rs. 27.50 crore at RE stage; in 2022-23, BE of Rs. 35 crore was increased to Rs. 45 crore and in 2023-24, BE of Rs. 70 crore was reduced to a mere Rs. 4 crore. The Ministry has submitted that during 2023-24, a modified mechanism for research and development in Renewable Energy sector came into place that resulted in low utilization of funds as new projects could not be undertaken. The Ministry has further submitted that currently Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme (RE-RTD) guidelines is being implemented with a total budget of Rs. 228 crore for the period of 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Committee would like to highlight the issue of reduced allocations coupled with lower utilization of funds in the important sector of R&D in Renewable Energy. During the last three years, the funds have not been fully utilized in even one year. The Ministry has submitted that improving Solar Photovoltaic efficiency; developing efficient and cost effective biogas plant designs; designing robust wind turbine systems; developing ultra-low head turbines; developing cost effective battery and pump storage systems and developing technologies in Geothermal, Tidal and Wave energy are some of its thrust areas. It is well known that to undertake substantive research and develop cutting edge technologies, sufficient funds and trained manpower is required. The Committee note the collaboration of the Ministry with premier institutions of India like IITs for undertaking research projects. The Committee also note the modification in R&D mechanism whereby the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will work alongside Ministry of

Power. The Committee while appreciating the changes brought to enhance efficiency in R&D, feel that the allocations need to be enhanced appropriately under RE-RTD programme. Further, the Committee are of the view that three dedicated institutions under the Ministry i.e. National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) and National Institute of Bio Energy (NIBE) should have world class research facilities and qualified professionals to enable them to successfully develop and indigenize global renewable energy technologies. To reduce import dependency and develop large scale manufacturing like that of Solar cells and modules, technical collaboration at international level would help bring in investments as well as create large scale employment opportunities.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry appreciates the Committee's valuable observations and recommendations regarding the Renewable Energy - Research and Technology Development (RE-RTD) Programme. The Ministry acknowledges the challenges highlighted by the Committee regarding reduced allocations and low utilization of funds in the past years. These issues were largely due to the integration of Renewable Energy (RE) R&D activities with the Ministry of Power's Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR). As noted, MAHIR's focus is primarily power-centric, leaving critical gaps in the comprehensive development of RE technologies. This mismatch resulted in no R&D projects being sanctioned under the RE-RTD Programme since November 2022, and the consequent surrender of funds in FY 2023-24. The RE-RTD Programme has been reinitiated in July 2024 and two research projects on development of high-efficiency solar cells with a total cost of Rs.53.59 crore (MNRE share) have been sanctioned.

R&D is a very critical need for atmanirbharta. While there is significant improvement in manufacturing capacity both in solar and wind, we are still dependent solely on foreign technology. To attain real self sufficiency and to capture a larger share of global manufacturing, we will need to promote much higher R&D for which significantly higher R&D budget would be required.The Ministry have taken a conscious decision that funds will be spent only on those projects which are important to the sector and will produce the desired results.

MNRE has various technical collaborations at international level with various countries like USA, Germany, Norway and Iceland, etc. to promote research in the field of renewable energy. Further, to reduce import

dependency and develop large scale manufacturing like that of Solar cells and modules, MNRE has been implementing Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme 'National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules' for achieving manufacturing capacity of Giga Watt (GW) scale in High Efficiency Solar PV modules.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 04.02.2025]

CHAPTER –III

Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's Replies

NIL

CHAPTER –IV

Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require Reiteration

NIL

CHAPTER – V

Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the final Replies of the Government are still awaited

NIL

New Delhi;
30th July, 2025
Shravan 8, 1947 (Saka)

Shrirang Appa Barne
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Energy

APPENDIX - I

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

MINUTES OF SEVENTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY (2024-25) HELD ON 30TH JULY, 2025 IN COMMITTEE ROOM-62, SAMVIDHAN SADAN, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1530 hours

MEMBERS - LOK SABHA

Shri Shrirang Appa Barne - Chairperson

2. Shri Shyamkumar Daulat Barve
3. Shri Devusinh Chauhan
4. Shri Malaiyarasan D.
5. Dr. Shivaji Bandappa Kalge
6. Dr. Kirsan Namdeo
7. Shri Nilesh Dnyandev Lanke
8. Shri Dulu Mahato
9. Shri Ramprit Mandal
10. Shri Jagdambika Pal
11. Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde
12. Shri Abhay Kumar Sinha

MEMBERS - RAJYA SABHA

13. Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan
14. Shri R. Dharmar
15. Shri Javed Ali Khan

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora	Director
3.	Shri Ajitesh Singh	Deputy Secretary
4.	Ms. Deepika	Under Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and apprised them about the agenda of the sitting. The Committee then took up for consideration and adoption the following draft Reports:

(i) Report on 'Action-taken by the Government on observations/recommendations contained in the 1st Report (18th

Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Power'.

(ii) Report on 'Action-taken by the Government on observations/ recommendations contained in the 2nd Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy'.

(iii) Report on 'Action-taken by the Government on observations/ recommendations contained in the 4th Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Power'.

(iv) Report on 'Action-taken by the Government on observations/ recommendations contained in the 5th Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy'.

3. After discussing the contents of the Reports in detail, the Committee adopted the abovementioned draft Reports without any amendment/modification.

4. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize the above-mentioned Reports and present the same to both the Houses during the current session.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX - II

(*Vide Introduction of the Report*)

Analysis of action-taken by the Government on Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Second Report (18th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Energy

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	11
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11	
	Total:	11
	Percentage:	100 %
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies: Sl. No. Nil	
	Total:	Nil
	Percentage:	00
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: Sl. Nos. Nil	
	Total:	Nil
	Percentage:	00
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited: Sl. No. Nil	
	Total:	Nil
	Percentage:	00