9

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 Fifth Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy]

NINTH REPORT

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

July, 2025/ Shravan, 1947 (Saka)

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[*Action taken by the Government on observations/recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) 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)

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

2. The Fifth Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 12th March, 2025 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 9th May, 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 Fifth 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 Fifth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

2. The Fifth Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 12th March, 2025 and was laid on table of the Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Report contained 09 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, and 9

Total - 09
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. 41,343.19 crore for the financial year 2025-26 against which an amount of Rs. 26,549.38 crore has been allocated to the Ministry. This is a reduction of about 36% in the allocation vis-à-vis demand. The allocated amount of Rs. 26,549.38 crore includes Rs. 21,349.38 crore as Budget Estimates and Rs. 5,200 crore from Sovereign Green Fund. The Committee observe that about 91.2% budget of the Ministry is allocated for only one component i.e. Solar Energy. Under Solar Energy component itself, about 82.5% of the budget is for implementation of only one Scheme i.e. PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. About 2.1% of the budget has been allocated for clearing past liabilities related to Wind and Small Hydro projects. National Bioenergy Programme has been allocated about 1.2% of the budget. National Green Hydrogen Mission and Green Energy Corridor have been allocated a budget of about 2.3% each. The Support Programme which includes Renewable Energy related Research & Development has been allocated 0.3% of the budget. The remaining 0.6% of the Budget has been allocated for Establishment Expenditure, Autonomous Bodies and other Capital expenditure. The Committee observe that the utilization has been about 86%, 88%, 82% and 83% in the years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, respectively. For the year 2024-25, the utilization has been about 68% (till 15.02.2025). The two 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 the North-Eastern States. The Committee understand the difficulties faced by the Ministry in effective implementation of Schemes during COVID pandemic. With regard to poor utilization in North-Eastern areas, the Committee are of the view

that mere allocation of funds is not enough to develop renewable energy sector in this area. The Committee feel that North-East region has huge potential of renewable energy but the region's difficult terrain, economic and technological backwardness as well as lack of skilled manpower discourage RE developers from setting projects there. Therefore, the Committee are of the opinion that regular stakeholder consultations, additional incentivization of renewable energy developers and allaying apprehensions of the local communities by closely working with them could create suitable conditions for setting up of renewable energy projects in the region."

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

"During the year 2024-25, a total amount of Rs.14051.88 crore has been utilized which is 81.23% of the Revised Estimates of Rs.17,298.44 crore. As additional incentivization of renewable energy developer in North Eastern States, provision of higher CFA than the standard CFA has been made under PM Surya Ghar; Muft Bijli Yojana, PM KUSUM, Waste to Energy Programme and Biogas Programme. Further, 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 vide letter dated 30.12.2024 **(copy attached as Annexure)** 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. MNRE had organized Chintan Shivir in Bhubaneswar during November, 2024, wherein a special session on Renewable Energy Integration in NE States was also held. During December 2024, Hon'ble Minister of New and Renewable Energy during his visit to Kolkata and Agartala in December, 2024 had reviewed the progress of various renewable energy schemes in the NER region."

8. The Committee note that there has been no improvement in the performance of the Ministry when it comes to utilization of its budgetary allocation. The Committee had earlier observed that utilization during the years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 stood at 86%, 88%, 82% and 83% respectively. As per information furnished by the

Ministry, the Committee note that during 2024-25, the utilization has been 81.23%, which is the lowest during the last five years. According to the Ministry, two consecutive waves of COVID and non-receipt of adequate proposals for Renewable Energy (RE) development in North-Eastern States have been the major reasons for under-utilization of budgetary allocation during the last few years. The Committee are of the opinion that since last two years, COVID is no longer the major factor affecting the budget expenditure of the Government. With regard to low spending in the North-Eastern States, the Committee have been of the view that mere allocation of funds is not enough to develop RE in the region. The Ministry has furnished that, apart from the provision of higher Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for the North-Eastern States, it has been requesting these States/Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (MDoNER) to submit proposals under its schemes/programmes, organizing shivirs and the Hon'ble Minister of New and Renewable Energy has also been making visits to review the progress of RE related schemes/programmes in the region. The Committee while acknowledging the efforts of the Ministry, would also like to place that the budget utilization figures of 2024-25 clearly demonstrate that the Ministry's efforts to hasten RE development in the North-Eastern States have not proven sufficient. The Committee are of the opinion that the Ministry should coordinate with the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region for encouraging States in this region to prioritize RE development by ensuring timely submission of proposals for RE projects. The Committee feel that close monitoring of each scheme/programme of the Ministry from inception to final CFA disbursement should be ensured for timely intervention and quick resolution of the issues. Further, the Committee would also like to re-emphasize their earlier recommendation that regular stakeholder consultation and allaying apprehensions of the local communities by closely working with them could create suitable conditions for setting up RE projects in the region.

Recommendation No. 7

9. The Committee had recommended as under:

"The Committee note that the Phase-I of Intra-State GEC has been given multiple extensions, but still the work has not been completed. Last year, the Ministry stated that the target envisaged under the Scheme viz. 9,767 Circuit Kilometers (CKM) of transmission lines and 22,689 Mega Volt-Amperes (MVA) transformation capacity of substations in eight States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, would be completed by March, 2025. However, as per the information furnished by the Ministry in February, 2025; the Intra-State GEC Phase-I has been further delayed as the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra have sought extension upto June, 2025. The reasons cited by the Ministry for the incessant delay under the Scheme include Right of Way (RoW) issues, delay in issuing tenders because of delay in substation land acquisition, delay in award of works, court cases, forest clearances, Great Indian Bustard (GIB) related clearance etc. Though, the Committee recognise Right of Way and land acquisition as major issues in laying of transmission lines and setting up of substations, they are also of the view that long delays should not become a regular feature in every transmission project. As transmission infrastructure is critical for timely evacuation of power from renewable energy projects, the Committee urge the Ministry to closely coordinate with State Governments as well as other stakeholders to resolve the issues being faced. The Committee also expect timely disbursement of compensation under RoW and land acquisition to prevent unnecessary delays under such Schemes. With regard to Phase-II of Intra-State GEC, the Committee note that it is scheduled to be completed by 2025-26. The Committee urge the Ministry to regularly monitor its progress to ensure its timely completion. For Inter-State Transmission project in Ladakh, the Committee note that PowerGrid has been made the nodal agency. Being the dominant player in transmission sector, the Committee expect PowerGrid to have the technological knowhow and manpower to execute this project within the given budget and timeline. The Committee also expect the Ministry to closely monitor this ambitious project for its timely completion."

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

"The phase-I of Green Energy Corridor has been delayed in the four states namely Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat 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. These States have been given extension up to 30 June, 2025. The Ministry is providing 70% of the CFA as advance in order to avoid delay in disbursement for RoW compensation and land acquisition. Further, Ministry has repeatedly impressed upon the States to expedite the completion of the projects under this phase.

Phase-II of GEC scheme is scheduled to be completed by FY 2025-26. Till March 2025, out of 91 packages, 72 have been tendered. Out of this, 52 have been awarded.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is closely monitoring the status of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) projects for power evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW renewable energy along with a 12 GWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Ladakh, ensuring strict adherence to timelines. The bids for the HVDC terminal stations at Pang and Kaithal were invited on July 18, 2024, with bid submission extended nine times, due to no bids received under Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB). Thereafter, Ministry of Power provided approval to switch from DCB to Global Competitive Bidding (GCB) on December 27, 2024 and retendering was done on January 21, 2025. Status of this project by March 2025, is as under:

- Front End Engineering and Design (FEED-1) Studies have been completed.
- Basic infrastructure establishment works started at Pang.
- LIDAR Survey for 220kV Pang-Phyang transmission line corridor started.
- Land (300 Acre) for Pang has been acquired and land for Kaithal HVDC Terminal Stations have been identified, and acquisition is under progress.
- Pre-bid studies: Completion is expected by June, 2025 and award of HVDC Package is expected by August, 2025
- NIT published for 220kV Transmission line on 30.08.2024 and award is expected by end of April, 2025
- ±350 kV HVDC Line NIT is expected by April, 2025 and award by June, 2025
- 400 kV AC Line Package NIT is expected by May, 2025 and Award by July, 2025"

11. The Committee have been highlighting the delays under Green Energy Corridor (GEC), particularly under Phase-I of the scheme, which has been given multiple extensions. The Ministry has furnished that the recent extension has been given up to 30th June, 2025 on the request of four States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. As the date of extension is over, the Committee would like to know whether any further extension has been given to the States concerned. The Committee had recommended for timely disbursement of compensation under Right of Way (RoW) and land acquisition to prevent unnecessary delays under GEC. Therefore, the Committee would like to appreciate the Ministry for providing 70% of the Central Financial Assistance (CFA) as advance to avoid delays on account of Right of Way (RoW) compensation and land acquisition. The Ministry has submitted that it is repeatedly impressing upon the States to expedite the completion of Phase-I of GEC. The Committee are of the view that apart from constant urging to States, the Ministry need to closely work with them to intervene and resolve issues timely to ensure that the implementation of transmission related projects move as per the planned schedule. With regard to the progress of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) projects for power evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW renewable energy along with a 12 GWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Ladakh, the Ministry has furnished that there has been poor participation from domestic as well as global vendors under bids for the development of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) terminal stations at Pang and Kaithal. The Committee note that under Global Competitive Bidding (GCB), retendering was done on January 21, 2025. The Committee would also like to know whether, as on date, any bid has been received for the development of HVDC terminal stations at the two places and would also like to be apprised of the current status of the situation. The Committee note that absence of any domestic bid points towards the lack of HVDC capabilities in the country and therefore, would like the Ministry to work closely with the Ministry of Power for developing domestic manufacturing capacity related to HVDC infrastructure.

Recommendation No. 9

12. The Committee had recommended as under:

> "The Committee note that for undertaking research and development (R&D) in Renewable Energy (RE) sector, the Ministry is implementing Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme (RE-RTD) with a total budget of Rs. 228 crore for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. For the year 2025-26, a budget of Rs. 46 crore has been allocated under the Scheme. The Committee note constant reduction in allocations at revised stage and even lesser utilization since the beginning of the Scheme, except during 2022-23 when the budget was increased by Rs. 10 crore at revised stage. Even last year i.e. 2024-25, the allocation of Rs. 46 crore was reduced to Rs. 30 crore at revised stage, out of which Rs. 26.52 crore has been utilized till 15th February, 2025. The Committee are of the view that R&D in RE needs greater focus in coming years, particularly considering the fact that India is still largely dependent on imports for meeting its requirement of Solar PV Modules as well as other RE-related equipments."

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

> "The Renewable Energy - Research and Technology Development (RE-RTD) Programme is being implemented for the period from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26, with a budget allocation of Rs. 228 crores.
>
> Since November 2022, the research and development of RE sector was clubbed with Ministry of Power through 'Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research' (MAHIR)which was launched, with its Secretariat at CPRI, Bengaluru, to quickly identify emerging technologies in the power sector and develop them indigenously, at scale, for deployment within and outside India. The MAHIR being power centric has very less focus for research in RE sector and does not cover the entire RE sector. Therefore,. During 2023-24, the major R&D fund was surrendered due to non-sanctioning of any R&D project.
>
> This mechanism of MAHIR was reviewed in MNRE and a decision has been taken on 01.07.2024 that the R&D projects related to Renewable Energy sector would be exclusively dealt by MNRE and R&D projects will be sanctioned as per existing Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development (RE-RTD) Programme of MNRE. This will help to expedite the implementation process and sanctioning of R&D

projects, and will enable the effective utilization of allocated funds meant for research, innovation and development in the RE sector.

In the Financial Year (FY) 2024-25, the Revised Estimate (RE) of ₹30.00 crore, utilized completely. For FY 2025-26, already committed expenditure stands at Rs.23 crore and upcoming projects to promote New Technology & Start-ups may require fund of Rs.26 crore. Thus, the requested fund of Rs.49 crore shall meet the current requirement, any additional requirement of the funds shall be compensated through Supplementary Demands for Grants.

The suggestion of the committee has been noted. However, the Ministry has sanctioned a National Centre for Photovoltaic Research and Education (NCPRE) at IIT Bombay, which is actively engaged in research and education in solar photovoltaics, including characterization, simulation, and modeling. Solar PV modules, along with other renewable energy-related equipment, are key thrust areas of focus under RE-RTD.

14. The Committee have been constantly highlighting reduction in budgetary allocations over the years for the Research and Development (R&D) related scheme, Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme (RE-RTD), of the Ministry of new and Renewable Energy. The Ministry has furnished that since November 2022, the R&D of Renewable Energy (RE) sector was clubbed with the Ministry of Power through 'Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research' (MAHIR). As per the Ministry, RE-RTD Programme was stagnated and no R&D project could be sanctioned since November, 2022 because MAHIR was centered around the research related to power sector and had very less focus on research in RE sector. The Ministry has further furnished that the mechanism of MAHIR was reviewed in MNRE and a decision was taken in July, 2024 that the R&D projects related to RE sector would be exclusively dealt by MNRE and R&D projects will be sanctioned as per existing RE-RTD Programme of the Ministry. The Committee would like to highlight this indifference towards the critical area of R&D in RE sector. The Committee believe that reduced focus on RE related R&D under MAHIR for two long years may have led to missed opportunities and delay in achieving self-sufficiency i.e. 'atmanirbharta' in the manufacturing of critical components in RE sector. Further, the Committee are of the view that

such an ineffective arrangement also reflect the lack of coordination between the two Ministries viz. Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The Committee note with some satisfaction that atleast the fund under the Revised Estimates (RE) of 2024-25 has been utilized completely and for 2025-26, the Ministry has already committed projects for spending its R&D related budget. The Committee expect that, after separation from the Ministry of Power's MAHIR, the R&D related projects under RE-RTD will gain momentum. Given that the duration of RE-RTD ends in March 2026, the Committee would also like to know about the planning of the Ministry for promotion of RE related R&D beyond the stipulated period of March 2026.

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. 41,343.19 crore for the financial year 2025-26 against which an amount of Rs. 26,549.38 crore has been allocated to the Ministry. This is a reduction of about 36% in the allocation vis-à-vis demand. The allocated amount of Rs. 26,549.38 crore includes Rs. 21,349.38 crore as Budget Estimates and Rs. 5,200 crore from Sovereign Green Fund. The Committee observe that about 91.2% budget of the Ministry is allocated for only one component i.e. Solar Energy. Under Solar Energy component itself, about 82.5% of the budget is for implementation of only one Scheme i.e. PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. About 2.1% of the budget has been allocated for clearing past liabilities related to Wind and Small Hydro projects. National Bioenergy Programme has been allocated about 1.2% of the budget. National Green Hydrogen Mission and Green Energy Corridor have been allocated a budget of about 2.3% each. The Support Programme which includes Renewable Energy related Research & Development has been allocated 0.3% of the budget. The remaining 0.6% of the Budget has been allocated for Establishment Expenditure, Autonomous Bodies and other Capital expenditure. The Committee observe that the utilization has been about 86%, 88%, 82% and 83% in the years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, respectively. For the year 2024-25, the utilization has been about 68% (till 15.02.2025). The two 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 the North-Eastern States. The Committee understand the difficulties faced by the Ministry in effective implementation of Schemes during COVID pandemic. With regard to poor utilization in North-Eastern areas, the Committee are of the view that mere allocation of funds is not enough to develop renewable energy sector in this area. The Committee feel that North-East region has huge potential of renewable energy but the region's difficult terrain, economic and technological backwardness as well as lack of skilled manpower discourage RE developers from setting projects there. Therefore, the Committee are of the opinion that regular stakeholder consultations, additional incentivization of renewable energy developers and allaying apprehensions of the local communities by closely working with them

could create suitable conditions for setting up of renewable energy projects in the region.

Reply of the Government

During the year 2024-25, a total amount of Rs.14051.88 crore has been utilized which is 81.23% of the Revised Estimates of Rs.17,298.44 crore. As additional incentivization of renewable energy developer in North Eastern States, provision of higher CFA than the standard CFA has been made under PM Surya Ghar; Muft Bijli Yojana, PM KUSUM, Waste to Energy Programme and Biogas Programme. Further, 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 vide letter dated 30.12.2024 (copy attached)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. MNRE had organized Chintan Shivir in Bhubaneswar during November, 2024, wherein a special session on Renewable Energy Integration in NE States was also held. During December 2024, Hon'ble Minister of New and Renewable Energy during his visit to Kolkata and Agartala in December, 2024 had 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: 09.05.2025]

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

Recommendation No. 2

PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

The Committee note that PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana was launched on 13th February, 2024 with the aim of installing rooftop solar plants in one crore households. An allocation of Rs. 20,000 crore has been made for 2025-26. As per the information furnished by the Ministry during the Sitting of the Committee on 25th February, 2025, around 1.72 crore registrations have been done and 45.85 lakh applications have been submitted on the National Portal for Rooftop Solar. However, when it comes to actual installation, only around 9.05 lakh households have been installed with solar panels and around 6 lakh households have received subsidies. The Ministry has further furnished that the target for 2025-26 is around 35 lakh installations which is around four

times of the current installations. The Committee are of the view that given the current pace of installations, achieving the target of 2025-26 will be challenging for the Ministry. The Committee are happy to note the measures taken by the Ministry to simplify the installation process viz. dedicated national portal, easy vendor registration, vendor training, loan availability to consumers, deemed technical feasibility, time-bound inspection and online grievance redressal tools, etc. However, the Committee are of the opinion that the Scheme needs to hasten its pace in terms of actual installations made. The Committee are of the view that for the Scheme to be successful as envisaged, the State Governments, DISCOMs and other stakeholders need to be fully onboard. The Committee recommend the Ministry to take appropriate measures towards increasing awareness and educating the public about the Scheme, preferably in their local language, highlighting the benefit of long term savings in their electricity bill after opting for the Scheme. The Committee would also recommend for strengthening the Operation & Maintenance clause alongwith their strict compliance which would instill confidence among the consumers about the long term support under the Scheme. With regard to Solarization of Government buildings which is also a component under the Scheme, the Committee recommend the Ministry to regularly monitor their progress in order to ensure their timely completion.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry 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 on getting zero electricity bills and ease of process in getting necessary approval, 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 NukkadNataks 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, this Ministry has been organizing Regional Workshops for creating focused awareness about the components and the benefits of the scheme. This 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.

As a result, the PMSG: MBY has witnessed impressive progress. Under the scheme, a total of 50.37 lakh no of applications have been submitted on the National Portal as on 25th April 2025. A total no of 12.05 lakh no of households have been benefitted with rooftop solar installations. An amount of Rs 5496.17 crore has been disbursed as Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to 7.05 lakh no of beneficiaries under the scheme.

Registered vendors have to provide the services to the consumers for repairs/maintenance of the RTS plant free of cost for 5 years period from the date of commissioning of the plant. Nonperforming/ under-performing system component will be replaced/repaired free of cost in this period. The consumer is provided with the warranties given by the respective OEMs on the system components for any future replacement of malfunctioning components. In all cases, the vendors are bound to adhere to the minimum technical specifications provided in the scheme in their installations. Further, all installed systems undergo inspections by the DISCOMs to ensure compliance with scheme guidelines before the release of CFA.

Vendors register with the DISCOMs/ REC (the NPIA) and submit Bank Guarantee (BG) depending upon the category of vendor i.e. National/ Multi State/ State level. DISCOMs/REC can take action against vendors in case of non-compliance of scheme guidelines including forfeiture of BG and deregistering, etc.

Provision of Brand Owners and Channel Partners w.r.t vendor registration has been introduced for increasing the pace of the rooftop solar installations with maintaining the quality and standards of installations.

The Ministry/ NPIA is regularly coordinating with Central Ministries/Department and State Governments agencies or ensuring solarization of Government Building on priority basis. A total of 1174.21 MW of rooftop solar capacity has been installed on 44,998 no of government buildings as on 21.04.2025.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 09.05.2025]

Recommendation No. 3

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 total central financial outlay under the Scheme is Rs. 34,422 crore and a budget of Rs. 2,600 crore has been allocated for the year 2025-26. 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 Committee note that the component-A has been brought under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) as a result of which loans at a subsidized rate are expected to be available to farmers for setting up solar plants of size upto 2 MW. The Committee appreciate the inclusion of the Component-A under AIF and hope this will provide the required impetus to encourage farmers towards investing in solar plants. For Component-B, during last year, the Committee had highlighted the inadequacy of 7.5 Horsepower (HP) solar pumps in drawing required quantities of water in dark zones. The Committee are happy to note that a provision has been made to allow higher capacity solar pumps in dark zones, when applied as a group viz. Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Water Users Association (WUA) etc. Under Component-C, the Committee note with satisfaction the revisions in provisions related to land, sub-station and development of online portal, etc. to simplify feeder level solarisation in the country. The Committee further observe that under Component-C, the allocations of non-performing States have been diverted to States like Gujarat and Maharashtra etc. which are capable of adding solar capacity by the end of the Scheme viz. March, 2026. Given the wide changes incorporated under all three components of the Scheme, the Committee hope that the respective targets for the year 2025-26 would be met. The Ministry has furnished to the Committee that it is working towards a proposal for the approval of the Expenditure Finance Committee for PM KUSUM 2.0. The Committee expect the new version to be robust and flexible, incorporating all the important learnings from the current version and addressing issues thereto. The Committee also anticipate that under the new version, the Ministry would work towards handholding the weaker States in achievement of their targets alongwith justifiable share of allocation to economically stronger States of the country.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry noted the valuable comments of the esteemed committee members. PM KUSUM scheme, which was started in 2019 has started picking up in FY 2023-24. There has been a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) growth of 220% in Component A, 200% in component B and 600% in Component C since then. As on 31.03.2025, total of 563.48 MW has been

installed under Component A, and more than 11.10 lakh pumps are solarized/installed under Component B and Component C of the scheme.

The scheme sunset date is 31.03.2026 and there is an overwhelming demand of more than 40 lakh pumps from the states. The Ministry is already in working toward EFC note for new scheme which aims to provide farmers with a clean and reliable source of renewable energy for irrigation purposes.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 09.05.2025]

Recommendation No. 4

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 Programme, Waste to Energy Programme and Biogas Programme. The Committee observe inconsistent target allocation and achievement under the programme. Under Waste to Energy Programme, during the last five years, the achievement has consistently been higher than the target except during 2024-25 when 97% of the target has been met by 31st January, 2025. Under Biomass Programme, during 2020-21 and 2021-22, the achievement was too low compared to the target but for the last three years, the achievement has constantly overshot target by huge margins. Under Biogas Programme, the achievement has been poor and in no year during the last five years, it has been even close to the target. When it comes to budgetary allocation, the Committee note that during last five years, the allocation has been reduced at revised stage for each year. The reduction was significant during 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 significant reduction, the entire amount was not utilized. Similarly, for 2024-25, the Budget Estimate of Rs. 300 crore has been reduced by around 62% to Rs. 185 crore at revised stage, of which only around 65% has been utilized till 15th February, 2025. Overall, the Committee find under-utilization as a persistent issue under this programme. The reasons cited by the Ministry for low utilization of funds include delay in commissioning of plants, non-achievement of plant performance and delay in inspection. The Committee believe that the reasons cited by the Ministry for low utilization of funds under the National Bioenergy Programme are avoidable and could have been mitigated to achieve the target. The Committee are of the view that the Phase-I of the Scheme is nearing completion in March 2026 and yet the Ministry has not been able to synchronize the targets and allocations under

the Scheme. The Ministry has furnished that proposal for Phase-II of the Programme is under preparation for submission to Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC). The Committee, therefore, recommend for prioritization of this much needed programme and urge the Ministry to closely monitor the projects under all three components to ensure timely inspection, commissioning, achievement of required plant performance as well as timely disbursal of subsidies.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry is making all out efforts for meeting the expenditure targets under the 3 Components of the National Bioenergy Programme (NBP). During the year 2024-25, an expenditure of Rs.160.12 crore has been incurred against the Revised Estimates (RE) Rs.190.00 crore, which is about 84.27%. Ministry is making continuous efforts to ensure timely completion of projects. To address the issues being faced by developers, Ministry has proposed suitable revisions in Biomass and Waste to Energy Scheme Guidelines which have been referred to the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, for their concurrence. In addition to above, Ministry is having regular consultation meetings with the developers for attaining plant performance as desired under the Scheme. The provision of monitoring of plant performance, is being ensured to assess the plant performance and timely disbursal of CFA. For the current FY 2025-26, realistic achievable targets are being set in consultation with all the stakeholders concerned. The proposal for Phase-II of NBP is under preparation to be sent to Department of Expenditure (DoE).

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 09.05.2025]

Recommendation No. 5

WIND ENERGY

The Committee note that against the potential of 1,164 GW of Wind energy in the country, the installed capacity is only around 48 GW. The Ministry has furnished that wind power projects are being set up by private developers based on techno-economic viability and the funds allocated to the Ministry is being utilized for meeting liabilities under Wind Generation Based Incentive Scheme which was operational till March, 2017. Currently, there is no Scheme for Onshore wind power and hence, there is no linkage between capacity commissioned and budgetary allocation. With regard to Offshore wind, the Ministry has furnished that the potential is around 70 GW in the two zones of Gujarat coast and Tamil Nadu coast and the first tender for development of

500 MW of Offshore wind energy capacity off the coast of Gujarat has already been floated by SECI. The Committee urge the Ministry to devise a mechanism to closely and effectively monitor the development of Offshore wind projects in the country. The Ministry has furnished that the annual manufacturing capacity in wind is more than 18 GW with 14 manufacturers producing nearly 80% of the components within the country. However, the Committee note that components like gear box, bearings, yaw components, wind turbine controllers 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 wind energy. Further, the Committee are of the view that evacuation and grid integration of wind power should also be planned in advance by the Ministry for proper utilization of the wind energy.

Reply of the Government

The wind energy installed capacity has crossed 50 GW and stands at 50.04 GW as on 31.03.2025.

In order to provide policy guidance and oversee the execution and effective implementation of specific offshore wind energy activities, National Offshore Wind Energy Policy has provision for Offshore Wind Energy Steering Committee (OWESC) under the chairmanship of Secretary, MNRE.

Further, two task forces (each off the coast of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Wind) to examine various issues involved in development of wind energy projects off the coast of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, including power off take arrangements, evacuation infrastructure, and port & logistic infrastructure, and recommend suitable measures in this regard. Several meetings of these task forces were convened to discuss the issues.

In addition, 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 CTU for development of offshore and onshore power evacuation system and grid infrastructure planning.

d. Drafting of Guidelines for implementation of OSW projects (with or without financial support).

e. Coordination with 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 Port Development.

i. Monitoring the execution/milestones achievements of the OSW projects.

j. Any other activities related to offshore wind.

In order to increase indigenization of wind energy technology, this Ministry has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Director General, National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE). Based on the Committee's recommendations, Ministry has circulated 'Draft amendment to Procedure for inclusion/ updating Wind Turbine Model in the Revised List of Models and Manufacturers of Wind Turbines (RLMM)' incorporating mandatory manufacturing of blade, tower, Gearbox and Generator in India in addition to Hub & Nacelle assembly for enlistment of wind turbine models in RLMM.

Central Electricity authority (CEA) has planned evacuation and grid integration for 500 GW RE capacity by 2030 including wind energy and published a report titled "Transmission system for integration of over 500 GW RE capacity by 2030" in December, 2022. The report inter-alia includes the transmission system for evacuation of power from the potential wind zones identified by NIWE. In addition, Transmission system has also been planned for 10 GW offshore wind potential, 5 GW each off the coast of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 09.05.2025]

Recommendation No. 6

SMALL HYDRO POWER (SHP)

The Committee note that Small Hydro Power programme was discontinued in 2017 and since then, the budget allocations have been used to clear old liabilities only. The Committee observe that the target under small hydro over the years has remained constant at 100 MW but still it has not been achieved for most years. The reasons cited by the Ministry include difficult locations, short working season in hilly areas and natural calamities such as flash floods, apart from Covid outbreak. Like previous years, this year too, the Ministry has furnished that it is working on approval of a new SHP Scheme. The Committee, while acknowledging the difficulties faced in

developing small hydro projects, would also expect that by now, the Ministry should have developed the knowhow and expertise to deal with difficulties associated with hydro projects. The Committee are further of the view that a new comprehensive Scheme would enable the Ministry to develop small hydro projects in a dedicated manner and therefore, urge the Ministry to come out with the new SHP Scheme at the earliest without any further delay.

Reply of the Government

A Note for Approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) was submitted to PMO and Cabinet Secretariat on 21.10.2024. A meeting was held with PMO on the note under consideration and based on the discussions and suggestions, 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: 09.05.2025]

Recommendation No. 7

GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR (GEC)

The Committee note that the Phase-I of Intra-State GEC has been given multiple extensions, but still the work has not been completed. Last year, the Ministry stated that the target envisaged under the Scheme viz. 9,767 Circuit Kilometers (CKM) of transmission lines and 22,689 Mega Volt-Amperes (MVA) transformation capacity of substations in eight States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, would be completed by March, 2025. However, as per the information furnished by the Ministry in February, 2025; the Intra-State GEC Phase-I has been further delayed as the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra have sought extension upto June, 2025. The reasons cited by the Ministry for the incessant delay under the Scheme include Right of Way (RoW) issues, delay in issuing tenders because of delay in substation land acquisition, delay in award of works, court cases, forest

clearances, Great Indian Bustard (GIB) related clearance etc. Though, the Committee recognise Right of Way and land acquisition as major issues in laying of transmission lines and setting up of substations, they are also of the view that long delays should not become a regular feature in every transmission project. As transmission infrastructure is critical for timely evacuation of power from renewable energy projects, the Committee urge the Ministry to closely coordinate with State Governments as well as other stakeholders to resolve the issues being faced. The Committee also expect timely disbursement of compensation under RoW and land acquisition to prevent unnecessary delays under such Schemes. With regard to Phase-II of Intra-State GEC, the Committee note that it is scheduled to be completed by 2025-26. The Committee urge the Ministry to regularly monitor its progress to ensure its timely completion. For Inter-State Transmission project in Ladakh, the Committee note that PowerGrid has been made the nodal agency. Being the dominant player in transmission sector, the Committee expect PowerGrid to have the technological knowhow and manpower to execute this project within the given budget and timeline. The Committee also expect the Ministry to closely monitor this ambitious project for its timely completion.

Reply of the Government

The phase-I of Green Energy Corridor has been delayed in the four states namely Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat 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. TheseStates have been given extension up to 30 June, 2025. The Ministry is providing 70% of the CFA as advance in order to avoid delay in disbursement for RoW compensation and land acquisition. Further, Ministry has repeatedly impressed upon the States to expedite the completion of the projects under this phase.

Phase-II of GEC scheme is scheduled to be completed by FY 2025-26. Till March 2025, out of 91 packages, 72 have been tendered. Out of this, 52have been awarded.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is closely monitoring the status of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) projects for power evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW renewable energy along with a 12 GWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Ladakh, ensuring strict

adherence to timelines. The bids for the HVDC terminal stations at Pang and Kaithal were invited on July 18, 2024, with bid submission extended nine times, due to no bids received under Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB). Thereafter, Ministry of Power provided approval to switch from DCB to Global Competitive Bidding (GCB) on December 27, 2024 and retendering was done on January 21,2025. Status of this project by March 2025, is as under:

- Front End Engineering and Design (FEED-1) Studies have been completed.
- Basic infrastructure establishment works started at Pang.
- LIDAR Survey for 220kV Pang-Phyang transmission line corridor started.
- Land (300 Acre) for Pang has been acquired and land for Kaithal HVDC Terminal Stations have been identified, and acquisition is under progress.
- Pre-bid studies: Completion is expected by June, 2025 and award of HVDC Package is expected by August, 2025
- NIT published for 220kV Transmission line on 30.08.2024 and award is expected by end of April, 2025
- ±350 kV HVDC Line NIT is expected by April, 2025 and award by June, 2025
- 400 kV AC Line Package NIT is expected by May, 2025 and Award by July, 2025

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 09.05.2025]

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

Recommendation No. 8

NATIONAL GREEN HYDROGEN MISSION

The Committee note that the National Green Hydrogen Mission is an ambitious plan that is aimed at building capabilities to produce 5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of Green Hydrogen by 2030. The Mission also aims to make India a leader in technology and manufacturing of electrolysers and other enabling technologies for Green Hydrogen. An amount of Rs. 600 crore has been allocated under the Mission for 2025-26. The Committee believe that India has huge potential for developing and exporting Green Hydrogen and therefore, would like to appreciate the Government for launching this Mission. The Committee agree with the

Ministry's submission that Green Hydrogen can prove beneficial in 'Hard to Abate' sectors, where power from renewable energy cannot be entirely relied upon like Steel, Cement, Transport etc. However, the Committee also note that there are certain issues associated with the development of Green Hydrogen which require attention. First and foremost, production of Green Hydrogen is an expensive process. Apart from high cost, the requirement of huge quantities of fresh water poses immense challenge to the sector. Therefore, the Committee are of the view that coherent advance planning is necessary to build the requisite infrastructure and technology for achieving scale and economy in Green Hydrogen production. The Committee are happy to note that discussions with coastal States like Odisha is underway to develop common facility for desalination of sea water to fresh water. Such a facility could lessen the burden on the already stressed fresh water resource in the country. The Committee would like to emphasise the need for investing in R&D related to Green Hydrogen. The Committee note that during 2024-25, the budgetary allocation of Rs. 600 crore was reduced to Rs. 300 crore at revised stage, out of which only Rs. 81.15 crore has been utilized till 15th February, 2025. Though, the Committee recognise that disbursement of funds under the Mission is largely dependent upon the progress of developers, they are also of the view that the Ministry need to work closely with the developers, removing any such regulatory bottlenecks that are causing delays in target achievement under the Mission.

Reply of the Government

Under National Green Hydrogen Mission, during the year 2024-25, an expenditure of Rs.167.35 crore has been incurred against the Revised Estimates of Rs.300 crore.

Further, for production of 1 kg of green hydrogen via electrolysis, around 10 litres of demineralized water is needed. Accordingly, for 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) Green Hydrogen production capacity per annum, the demineralized water requirement will be about 50 Million Cubic Meter (MCM) per annum.

Majority of the Green Hydrogen production plants are expected to come up near port locations as per the industry feedback. In such cases, desalinated sea water could also be used for Green Hydrogen production.

Under the Research & Development scheme of the Mission, 21 projects have been sanctioned till March 2025, with an aggregate financial support from the Mission of approximately ₹111 crore.

The Ministry is actively engaging with stakeholders in the green hydrogen sector through regular interactions and review meetings. These interactions aim to identify and address the challenges faced by the industry, leading to the creation of a conducive and enabling ecosystem for green hydrogen development in India.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 09.05.2025]

Recommendation No. 9

RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RE-RTD)

The Committee note that for undertaking research and development (R&D) in Renewable Energy (RE) sector, the Ministry is implementing Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme (RE-RTD) with a total budget of Rs. 228 crore for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. For the year 2025-26, a budget of Rs. 46 crore has been allocated under the Scheme. The Committee note constant reduction in allocations at revised stage and even lesser utilization since the beginning of the Scheme, except during 2022-23 when the budget was increased by Rs. 10 crore at revised stage. Even last year i.e. 2024-25, the allocation of Rs. 46 crore was reduced to Rs. 30 crore at revised stage, out of which Rs. 26.52 crore has been utilized till 15th February, 2025. The Committee are of the view that R&D in RE needs greater focus in coming years, particularly considering the fact that India is still largely dependent on imports for meeting its requirement of Solar PV Modules as well as other RE-related equipments.

Reply of the Government

The Renewable Energy - Research and Technology Development (RE-RTD) Programme is being implemented for the period from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26, with a budget allocation of Rs. 228 crores.

Since November 2022, the research and development of RE sector was clubbed with Ministry of Power through 'Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research' (MAHIR)which was launched, with its Secretariat at CPRI, Bengaluru, to quickly identify emerging technologies in the power sector and

develop them indigenously, at scale, for deployment within and outside India. The MAHIR being power centric has very less focus for research in RE sector and does not cover the entire RE sector. Therefore, RE-RTD Programme was stagnated and no R&D project could be sanctioned since November, 2022. During 2023-24, the major R&D fund was surrendered due to non-sanctioning of any R&D project.

This mechanism of MAHIR was reviewed in MNRE and a decision has been taken on 01.07.2024 that the R&D projects related to Renewable Energy sector would be exclusively dealt by MNRE and R&D projects will be sanctioned as per existing Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development (RE-RTD) Programme of MNRE. This will help to expedite the implementation process and sanctioning of R&D projects, and will enable the effective utilization of allocated funds meant for research, innovation and development in the RE sector.

In the Financial Year (FY) 2024-25, the Revised Estimate (RE) of ₹30.00 crore, utilized completely. For FY 2025-26, already committed expenditure stands at Rs.23 crore and upcoming projects to promote New Technology & Start-ups may require fund of Rs.26 crore. Thus, the requested fund of Rs.49 crore shall meet the current requirement, any additional requirement of the funds shall be compensated through Supplementary Demands for Grants.

The suggestion of the committee has been noted. However, the Ministry has sanctioned a National Centre for Photovoltaic Research and Education (NCPRE) at IIT Bombay, which is actively engaged in research and education in solar photovoltaics, including characterization, simulation, and modeling. Solar PV modules, along with other renewable energy-related equipment, are key thrust areas of focus under RE-RTD.

[Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
O.M. No. 372-12/8/2017-PU, Dated: 09.05.2025]

Comments of the Committee

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

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

Annexure

ग्रल्हाद जोशी
PRALHAD JOSHI
ಪ್ರಲ್ಹಾದ ಜೋಶಿ

सत्यमेव जयते

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण तथा
नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्री
भारत सरकार

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND
MINISTER OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

D.O. No.117/45/2024-Solar Energy Group

30 DEC 2024

Dear Shri Scindia Ji,

Kind reference is invited to your D.O. letter No. D.O.No. EandP- 19/53/ 2024-O/o US (EAP) dated 22nd October 2024, expressing concern regarding the low expenditure in the North Eastern Region (NER) by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), which is mandated to spend at least 10% of its Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for NER States.

2. In this regard, I would like to inform you that the MNRE is implementing various schemes and programmes providing higher Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for promotion of renewable energy projects in the NER. Details of these schemes and programmes are attached as Annexure.

3. During the various review meetings taken by Ministry of DONER, MNRE has been requesting all the NER States to submit proposals under the different schemes and programmes of this Ministry, so that the fund absorption in the NER States could be enhanced.

4. I understand that there are various challenges for implementing renewable energy projects in the NER, these include higher Levelized Cost of Electricity (LCoE) due to low solar irradiance and less sunny days, limited land availability, difficult terrain leading to high transportation and manpower cost, high plant cost for Small Hydro Power projects, law & order issues in certain States, comparatively high gestation period, lack of awareness, lack of capacity building and skilled manpower, etc.

5. To overcome these challenges, apart from providing higher CFA, measures are being undertaken by the MNRE to create awareness, capacity building of state implementing agencies and skill development through training programmes for larger participation of stakeholders of NER in MNRE schemes and programmes. MNRE is also working to formulate a special scheme specifically for NER which would be able to show significantly higher performance in coming years.

Contd.....

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अनुवर्ती / Continuation....

(2)

6. I am hopeful that with the above-mentioned measures, MNRE would be able to enhance the expenditure in NER. I would like to request you that North Eastern Region States, may be requested to submit proposals under the different schemes of MNRE, so that the allocation towards NER states could be fully utilized.

7. Any suggestions in this regard from Ministry of DoNER re welcome and will be appreciated.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

(Pralhad Joshi)

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Annexure

Major MNRE Schemes/Programmes available for NER States

1. PM-KUSUM Scheme:

PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) is a flagship scheme to solarise agriculture sector having three components viz (i) Component A - to promote small Grid-Connected Solar Power Plants, (ii) Component B - installation of stand-alone solar-powered agricultural pumps and (iii) Component C - solarisation of existing grid-connected agricultural pumps including through feeder-level solarisation.

For NER States the CFA/incentives under PM KUSUM are as follows: -

i. Under Component A: Procurement Based Incentives @ Rs. 0.40 per unit for five years will be provided to DISCOMs for setting up of Decentralized Ground/Stilt Mounted Solar Power Plants on barren/fallow/pasture/marshy land of farmers. Such plants can be installed by individual farmer, Solar Power Developer, Cooperatives, Panchayats and Farmers Producer Organisations. The PBI is given to the DISCOMs for a period of five years from the Commercial Operation Date of the plant. Therefore, the total PBI that payable to DISCOMs is upto Rs. 33 Lakh per MW

ii. Under both the Component-B and Component-C, the Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of 50% of the benchmark cost or the tender cost, whichever is lower is provided to the individual farmers/group of farmers installing/solarising the agriculture pumps of capacity up to 7.5HP. The CFA will also be available for pump capacity up to 15 HP, however, it will be restricted to 10% of total installations in the state.

iii. For Feeder Level Solarisation under component C, the CFA is calculated considering the cost of the solar power plant as Rs. 3.5 Crore/ MW. Therefore, the CFA of 1.75cr/MW will be provided for Feeder Level Solarisation.

2. PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:

The Ministry is implementing the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana targeting installation of rooftop solar plants in 1 crore residential houscholds by providing central financial assistance (CFA). The scheme provides subsidy @ 60% of the benchmark costs for the first two kW of rooftop solar and @ 40% of benchmark costs for the next one kW of rooftop solar. The CFA will be capped at 3 kW capacity of rooftop solar plant. Details of CFA amount for NER states are as follows:

Sl. No.	Type of Residential Segment	CFA in NER
1.	Residential Household (first 2 kW_p)	Rs 33,000/kWp
2.	Residential Household (additional 1 kW_p)	Rs 19,800/kWp
3.	Residential Household (above 3 kWp)	No CFA
4.	GHS/RWA etc, for common facilities for up to 500 kW_p (@3 kW_p per house)	Rs 19,800/kWp

3. National Bioenergy Programme:

The MNRE is implementing National Bioenergy Programme for the period from FY 2021-22 to 2025-26 covering following components:

i. **Biomass programme: CFA pattern**

- For Briquette/Pellet manufacturing plants: Rs. 9.00 Lakhs/ MTPH (Maximum CFA- Rs. 45.00 Lakh per project)
- For Non-Torrefied Pellet manufacturing plant: Rs. 21 lakhs/MTPH production capacity or 30% of the capital cost considered for plant and machinery of 1 TPH plant, whichever is lower (Maximum Rs. 105 lakhs per project).
- For Torrefied Pellet manufacturing plant: Rs. 42 lakhs/MTPH production capacity or 30% of the capital cost considered for plant and machinery of 1 TPH plant, whichever is lower (Maximum Rs. 210 lakhs per project)
- For Non-Bagasse Cogeneration Projects: Rs. 40 Lakhs/ Megawatt (Maximum CFA- Rs. 5.00 Crore per project).

ii. **Waste to Energy Programme: CFA pattern**

- For Biogas generation: Rs 0.25 crore per 12000 cum/day (Maximum CFA- Rs.5.00 crore/project)
- For BioCNG/Enriched Biogas/Compressed Biogas generation: (Maximum CFA- Rs.10 crore/project)
  a. BioCNG generation from new Biogas plant- Rs 4.0 Crore per 4800 Kg/day;
  b. BioCNG generation from existing Biogas plant- Rs 3.0 Crore per 4800 Kg/day;
- For Power generation based on Biogas (Maximum CFA- Rs. 5.00 crore/project):
  a. Power generation from new biogas plant: Rs 0.75 Crore per MW
  b. Power generation from existing biogas plant: Rs 0.5 crore / MW
- For Power generation based on bio & agro-industrial waste (other than MSW through incineration process): Rs. 0.40 crore/MW (Maximum CFA - Rs.5.00 Crore/Project)
- For Biomass Gasifier for electricity/ thermal applications:
  a. Rs. 2,500 per kW_e with dual fuel engines for electrical application
  b. Rs. 15,000 per kW_e with 100% gas engines for electrical application
  c. Rs. 2 lakh per 300 kW_{th} for thermal applications.

The eligible CFA for NER States would be 20% higher than Standard CFA indicated above.

iii. Biogas Programme: CFA Pattern

- For small biogas plants (1-25 cubic meter/day plant capacity): Rs. 17000/- to Rs. 70,400/- per plant based on size of the plant in cubic meter;
- For Power generation and thermal application (capacity ranging from above 25 to 2500 cubic meter biogas generation per day), 3 to 250 kWe Power Generation capacity per day): Rs. 35,000/- to Rs. 45,000/- per kilowatt for power generation and Rs. 17,500 /- to Rs. 22,500/- per kilowatt equivalent for thermal applications (25 – 2500 cubic meter/day plant capacity). **The eligible CFA for NER States would be 20% higher than Standard CFA indicated above.**

4. New Solar Power Scheme (for Tribal and PVTG Habitations/ Villages) under PM JANMAN and PM JUGA:

Ministry on 18.10.2024 has issued approval along with implementation guidelines for New Solar Power Scheme (for tribal and PVTG Habitations/Villages) under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) and Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM JUGA). The Scheme will cover electrification of One Lakh un-electrified households (HHs) in Tribal and PVTG areas identified by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) by provision of off-grid solar systems. The scheme includes a provision for providing off-grid solar lighting in 1500 Multi-Purpose Centres (MPCs) in PVTG areas as approved under PM JANMAN. Similarly, the scheme also includes provision for solarisation of 2000 public institutions through off-grid solar systems as approved under PM JUGA. The off-grid solar systems shall be provided only where electricity supply through grid is not techno-economically feasible. The financial outlay approved for the scheme under PM JANMAN and PM JUGA is given below:

Sl. No.	Components	Central Share (100%)	Approved Financial Outlay (in Rs. Crore)	Timeline
1.	Provision of 0.3 kW Solar off-grid system for 1 lakh Tribal and PVTG HHs	Rs. 50,000 per HH or as per actual cost	500	FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26
2.	Solar street lighting and provision of lighting in 1500 MPCs of PVTG areas	Rs. 1 lakh per MPC	15	
3.	Solarisation of 2000 public institutions through off-grid solar systems	Rs 1 lakh per kW	400	FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29

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 Fifth Report (18th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Energy

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	09
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9	
	Total:	09
	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