

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5150
ANSWERED ON 02/04/2025
SOLAR POWER IN LADAKH

5150. SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH

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

- (a) the details of companies investing in solar power in Ladakh;
- (b) the details of the energy-related investments that are currently in the pipeline in Ladakh, project-wise;
- (c) the measures taken to address the concerns of the local community and environmentalists regarding investments in the sensitive ecology of Ladakh; and
- (d) the steps taken to ensure that the investments are environmentally sustainable and socially responsible?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) & (b) Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) is implementing a grid-connected solar PV power project of capacity 25 MWac/50 MWdc with battery storage of 40 MWh at Taru, Leh, in Union Territory of Ladakh. The EPC contract for this project has been awarded to M/s Prozeal Green Energy Private Limited.

Hybrid renewable energy (RE) park of total 13 GW capacity is envisaged across Pang, Debring and Kharnak areas of Union Territory of Ladakh and includes solar, wind and battery energy storage system. As of now, no companies have been selected for setting up renewable power projects in the aforesaid RE park.

Ministry is implementing Inter State Transmission System in GEC-II for evacuation of 13 GW RE Projects in Ladakh with a total project cost of Rs. 20,773.70 crore and providing central financial assistance of 40% of DPR cost or awarded cost, whichever is lower. The scheme is implemented by PowerGrid Corporation of India Limited.

Zunkul Small Hydro Power project of 2.5 MW and Bogdang Small Hydro Power project of 0.80 MW are under construction in Ladakh.

(c) & (d) The solar photo-voltaic power projects are not covered under the ambit of environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006 and no environment clearance is required for such projects under the provisions thereof. Further, to manage e-waste generated after the use of solar photo-voltaic modules or panels or cells, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, effective from 1st April, 2023. Additionally, the recycling of solar photo-voltaic modules or panels or cells are mandated for recovery of material as laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The projects mentioned in reply to (a) and (b) above promote clean energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, thereby lowering greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing the environmental impact. Furthermore, the projects are expected to benefit the local community by creating employment opportunities, boosting small-scale businesses and enhancing the socio-economic conditions of the region. Interlinking works like Road/bridge infrastructure strengthening will facilitate movement of heavy equipment and shall lead to improved road access for local residents. The optimized electricity supply will improve energy reliability, contributing to the overall development and sustainability of the area. Additionally, SECI has undertaken Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, including the digitalization of education system, training of teachers, Environment Sustainability, and supporting medical facilities, further demonstrating its commitment to social responsibility and community welfare.
