

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3671
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
GREEN OSCAR AWARD FOR SOLAR ENERGY SECTOR
RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a possibility of nominating some of the Indian projects in solar energy sector for Green Oscar awards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a) & (b) : The `Ashden Awards`, also referred to as `Green Oscar Awards`, are given by the Ashden Trust in the United Kingdom, in association with Green Futures, an environmental magazine. The awards were created in 2001 by the Ashden Trust. In 2003, the Trust announced four awards of £30,000 each along with awards of £7,500 each for runners-up, for sustainable and innovative renewable energy projects aimed at alleviating poverty and / or improving the quality of life of people. Three of these awards are for projects in developing countries (under the categories of food security, enterprise and community welfare), and one award is for a UK project.

For the year 2003, two Indian organisations i.e. the Barefoot College, Tilonia, Rajasthan won the award for Community Welfare and the West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency, Kolkata won the Enterprise Award. A third Indian organization, the Madhya Pradesh Gramin Vikas Mandal (MPGVM) was runner-up for the Enterprise Award. All three awards were given for projects which promoted the use of solar energy.

(c): The Government considers the awards won by the Indian organisations as a recognition of the efforts made in India to use solar energy for meeting energy needs of rural areas and weaker sections of the society in an environment - friendly manner.