

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5274  
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2005  
USE OF HYDROGEN AS ENERGY SOURCES  
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**Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government propose to encourage the use of hydrogen and solar energy in view of damage being caused to the environment by the pollution emanating from fossile fuels like coal, diesel, petrol and natural gas;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate a long term scheme in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details, thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON- CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES( INDEPENDENT CHARGE ) (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR)

(a): Hydrogen energy, which has the potential to be used as a clean fuel for transport and for power generation, is at present in the research, development and demonstration stage. The Government is supporting research and development efforts on different aspects of hydrogen energy including its production, storage, applications etc. Solar Energy, however, is in operational use and is currently being harnessed for generating electricity and heat, through solar photovoltaic and solar thermal routes, respectively. The Government is providing financial support to users for purchase/ installation of solar energy systems for lighting, pumping, stand alone power generation, water heating, cooking, air heating, passive buildings etc.

(b), (c) & (d): In view of the importance of hydrogen as a major source of energy in the coming years, the Ministry has constituted a National Hydrogen Energy Board, which has high level representation from Government, industry, academic institutions and experts. The Board is providing guidance for the preparation and implementation of the National Hydrogen Energy Road Map and Programme covering different aspects of Hydrogen Energy, including the production of hydrogen from various existing and new methods such as solar and other renewable sources of energy. Solar Energy systems have niche applications for low power off-grid use and water heating systems in favourable climatic zones. As part of the Ministry's R&D Programme, efforts are in progress to improve cost-competitiveness and efficiency of solar energy systems which would facilitate their widespread applications.