

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7288
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2005
SOLAR ENERGY BOARD
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to make a nation wide programme or a national mission to exploit solar energy on a large scale as this is the only source available abundantly as an alternative sources of energy;
- (b) whether the Government propose to set up a separate board for Solar Energy on the lines of Hydrogen Board;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if so, the reasons and the steps taken for extensive research on solar energy and its use?

Answer

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

- (a): Government recognizes the importance and potential of all major renewable sources of energy in the country including solar energy. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been implementing nation-wide programmes for the development and utilization of solar energy covering both solar thermal and photovoltaic applications. These programmes are proposed to be expanded during 2005-2006.
- (b): Government has already established a Commission for Additional Sources of Energy to plan and oversee the implementation of programmes relating to solar energy and other renewable energy sources. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up a separate board for solar energy.
- (c): Does not arise.
- (d): Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been supporting research and development on solar energy for more than two decades. As a result of the research work supported by the Ministry, an indigenous technology and manufacturing base has been established in the country. A number of solar energy systems for lighting, water pumping, telecommunications, remote power generation, water heating, solar cooking, drying and other applications . have been developed and commercialized in the country. Currently the focus of research is on further reduction in the cost of solar energy products and improvements in their quality, reliability and life. A number of research institutions, universities and industrial establishments are associated with this task. These efforts are expected to further expand the use of solar energy in the country.