

Rajya Sabha

A total of 32 grid interactive solar photovoltaic power plants, with aggregate capacity of 2.1 Megawatt, have been installed in the country with financial support from the Government. The estimated cost of solar power plants is in the range of Rs. 17 crore to Rs. 20 crore per mega watt.

A two mega watt capacity grid interactive solar photovoltaic power plant is being set up by West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation Limited in Asansol district in West Bengal. In addition, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited is also setting up a mega watt capacity solar photovoltaic power plant in Raichur district at the tail-end of the grid.

At present the estimated cost of solar power generation is about Rs. 13 to Rs 15 per unit, which is high in comparison to power available from other sources.

The cost of solar energy systems have been reducing, however, it may take some more time for solar energy systems to become competitive to other sources of energy.

The Government has been supporting research and development to reduce the cost of solar power through (i) improvements in the performance of existing solar devices (ii) reduction in the consumption of materials (iii) development of new materials and devices; (iv) development of grid interactive electronic systems etc. In addition, setting up of a solar thermal power generation and test facility is being supported.

The research efforts are aimed at reducing the cost of solar power to make them competitive to grid power in next 8-10 years.

This information was given by Minister for New & Renewable Energy in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today.