

Lok Sabha

The Ministry of Urban Development have requested the State/Union Territory Governments to consider issuing suitable directives to the local bodies under their control for modifying the building bye-laws with a view to make the installation of solar water heating systems mandatory in certain categories of buildings. In order to assist the local bodies in this respect, a model regulation/bye-laws has also been circulated to all State and Union Territory Governments. The model regulation/bye-laws, when incorporated by the local bodies in their existing building bye-laws, will make it mandatory for those categories to have solar assisted water heating systems.

The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhatisgarh and Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh have so far issued necessary orders to urban local bodies to make solar water heaters mandatory in functional buildings in their States.

Government is promoting cooperation with United States of America (USA) in the area of renewable energy technologies including solar energy, primarily through technology development, sharing of technical expertise, undertaking renewable energy resource assessments, etc. Trade in renewable energy technologies is facilitated by Government's various indirect and direct taxation measures and through market mode.

As per the Hand Book on Solar Radiation over India, published through Government initiatives, most parts of India receive 4–7 kilowatt hours of solar radiation per square meter per day, with 250–300 sunny days in a year. The solar radiation received in Rajasthan and Gujarat is relatively higher than that received in Orissa.

The Government is promoting development of the renewable energy sector including solar energy through a mix of fiscal and financial incentives that include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, nil/ concessional excise and custom duties.

This information was given by Shri Farooq Abdullah, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, in a written reply in Lok Sabha today.