

27. Despite the generous Capital and interest subsidy offered by the central government, roof-top solar energy is not expanding in the country. Analyse. (250 words)

India being a tropical country with more than 300 sunny days had potential to generate more than 750 GW from the solar energy, among that roof top generation seems to be a low hanging fruit remains unplucked.

Understanding the significance of roof top solar energy potential centre set a target of attaining 40GW generation by 2022 followed with capital and interest subsidies, but the effort goes in vain by generating less than 350 MW until the end of 2019.

Why the Roof top solar energy generation not picking up?

(a) Factors in consumer side

⇒ Through net metering, the consumer was offered to pay only for his remaining consumed power after deduction from his production. Here he has the benefit of utilising the grid power during peak hours at normal tariff that too the transport and distribution charges are neglected.

(*) Low awareness among the people about the benefits of the scheme.

(*) Feeling constrained places in terrace after photovoltaic cell installations.

⊕ Only high end consumers are stepped up with the generation, that too Karnataka alone accounts for $\approx 65\%$. From the total generation shows the troubling inequality.

ⓑ Factors in DISCOMS side :-

→ The offering done by the government to consumers hurts DISCOMS a lot because of neglecting T&D losses (accounts for more than 12% in India), net metering (where peak hours supply happens to customers at normal tariff).

→ The fluctuations and demands are beyond the statistical analysis which pressures the grid supply, where the losses have to be borne by the DISCOMS (already in weak financial position)

→ The staggering DISCOMS may in future may found its relationship in turmoil with the power generation companies.

What's next?

→ The property registration from next month onwards should make the rooftop power generation mandatory based on the property.

→ DISCOMS should be consulted along with other stakeholders for their concerns towards favourable generation scheme to attain the 2022 target.

→ SARAL Index by Ministry of New and Renewable energy among the states/UTs should be done quarterly to increase competitiveness.