

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO-25**  
ANSWERED ON-30/11/2021

**ALLOCATION OF ECO-SENSITIVE AREAS IN GUJARAT FOR ENERGY  
PROJECTS**

\*25. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the unsuitable conditions of the ecosystem in Kutch and whether that has been taken into consideration before allocating energy projects;
- (b) whether the Ministry has policy interventions for rehabilitation of this area;
- (c) if so, the steps that are being taken, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Ministry is aware that Reliance Corporation's solar project in Jamnagar, Gujarat and its existing refinery has caused damage to marine ecosystems; and
- (e) what policy interventions is the Ministry taking to prevent deterioration of the area?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER**

**(SHRI R.K. SINGH)**

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION  
NO. 25 (10<sup>TH</sup> POSITION) FOR 30.11.2021 REGARDING ALLOCATION OF ECO-  
SENSITIVE AREAS IN GUJARAT FOR ENERGY PROJECTS**

(a) to (c) Renewable Energy (RE) projects do not have any adverse impact on environment. In fact, RE projects are beneficial for the environment because they replace coal fired electricity. Solar power projects of 6092.69 MW and wind power projects of 8952.92 MW were installed, as on 31.10.2021, in Gujarat including Kutch Region. Solar and Wind power projects are environment friendly, and so are not covered under the ambit of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 and do not require prior environmental clearance.

(d) & (e) This Ministry does not deal with the subject of oil and natural gas. Solar power projects are land based and do not cause damage to marine ecosystem. There is no utility scale solar power project of M/s Reliance Corporation in Jamnagar.

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