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## Gujarat solar power model for Odisha

Minati Singha, TNN | Sep 9, 2014, 11.01AM IST

BHUBANESWAR: After making solar power a success in its own state, the Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI) has decided to support other states in replicating similar models.

The autonomous body will provide technical support to the Odisha government to generate five MW of electricity through roof-top solar power plants in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. The rooftop plants will be set up on top of 120 buildings in the twin cities by Green Energy Development Corporation of Odisha Limited (GEDCOL).

"In the first phase, the rooftops of government buildings will be used for setting up rooftop solar projects. A detailed project report is being prepared for harnessing sunshine on rooftops in the twin cities," said managing director of GEDCOL Hemant Sharma. He was speaking at the six-day solar power professional workshop inaugurated here on Monday.

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GEDCOL has earmarked land to set up three solar parks at Rengali, Manamunda and Bhawanipatna. It is estimated that about 270 MW of solar power could be generated by setting up projects on these identified land plots, sources said.

The Centre has also asked the state to identify land to set up an Ultra Mega Solar Power Plant (UMSPP), which will have the capacity to generate more than 100 MW. "The Rengali project is at an advanced stage while the detailed project reports have been prepared for the two other projects. We are waiting for the formal announcement by the Centre so that we can allocate any of the three identified sites for the solar plant," Sharma said.

Director of GERMI T Harinarayan said, "Solar is the next big thing and all states have to adopt it sooner or later. We decided to replicate the Gujarat model in other states. We have already done it in Ranchi and Hyderabad and are planning to provide technical support and also training to create skilled manpower in this sector."

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