

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/>

Make use of solar rooftops for houses mandatory: CSE

January 10, 2017 | UPDATED 18:00 IST

New Delhi, Jan 10 (PTI) Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has called for installation of solar rooftops to be made mandatory for all upcoming residential societies and sought a ban on use of diesel generator sets in highly-polluted urban areas like the national capital.

The environmental watchdog has argued that decline in cost of solar panels means they are now a financially viable option and the cost of electricity generation through them, including the capital cost, is a third (Rs 10 per unit) of that generated through diesel generator (DG) sets (Rs 27- Rs 33 per unit).

The solar rooftop can also reduce monthly power bill of the consumers. The extra units generated through solar rooftop can be exported to the grid, something which cannot be done with DGs, according to CSE.

In a survey conducted in five residential societies across Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan it was found that "size of the diesel generator was often not connected to outage" but was sometimes linked to the "status" of a particular society.

For instance, ICON, an upscale society in Gurugram, which experiences an outage of only 16 minutes per day on an average had "full backup" with DG size of 1,112 KW.

"DG back-up has become increasingly redundant because of reducing power outages in cities. We must realise that full back up was considered a basic need by upscale societies when the outages often lasted several hours a day," said Chandra Bhushan, director general, CSE during the launch of report Solar Rooftop: Replacing Diesel Generators in Residential Societies.

"If power outage is less than an hour a day then the very definition of full back-up needs to be changed. For tens of minutes of outage, even for the high-end societies partial load back-up should be sufficient," Bhushan added.

As per CSE, this partial load can be easily met by solar rooftop for individual flats. DG sets though can be used to supplement additional power requirements for shared facilities in a residential society like elevators and for energy-intensive appliances such as ACs. (MORE) PTI JC KIS