May 5, 2017

[Approval by mail]: India: Innovations in Solar Power and Hybrid Technologies-XCTFIN213A (CTF) (World Bank) – Response from the World Bank to the Comments from Germany

#1. As of now the site selection study is underway. The selection criteria of the site includes type of water body (if fishing lake) and impact of water body on the livelihood due to fishing activity as one of the criteria. The preference is to select the site with no or minimal impact on the aquaculture life of the water body. The detailed assessment will be done as part of safeguards assessment upon finalization of the site.

#2. Since this project is focused on promoting new technologies which have either not yet been implemented in the country or if they have then not at a grid-connected scale. Since canal top installation was first established in India (and in fact in the world) in 2012 with 1MW installation in Gujarat, many other states followed the footsteps and as result the current pipeline of such investments is around 100MW (under the Government of India's Canal bank/Canal top installations). Hence, such technology has already proved its value addition and just needs replication. Whereas the technologies being supported under the project are still not there and hence being promoted here.

#3. The team intends to put strict clauses in the bid documents as per which the disposal of batteries will be done only through the registered battery suppliers. This is expected to majorly mitigate the risk of disposal of batteries.

#4. SECI will be the project developer for these three technologies. This will enable it to foster its agenda to promote renewable energy sector in the country while mitigating the technical risks in these demonstration project and hence opening up the sector for private investments.

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