

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION 2376.

Dr G W Koornhof (ANC) to ask the Minister of Energy:

Whether (a) her department and (b) the entities reporting to her have implemented any energy-saving (i) practices or (ii) devices for buildings, offices and boardrooms in the 2010-11 financial year; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

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Reply

- (a) The department is responsible for an energy efficiency programme that is funded from the fiscus, to institute various energy efficiency measures through municipalities and Eskom.
- (i) The measures include the retrofitting of incandescent lighting with more efficient light fittings (compact fluorescent lights for residential consumers, solar water heating, light emitting diodes for traffic lights, etc.). In terms of this programme, municipalities and Eskom have to motivate the EE intervention in (i) relation to the energy saving impact of the technology.
- (ii) The retrofitting of buildings with EE measures like motion detectors, efficient lighting systems, improved insulation, efficient heating and ventilation systems, also takes place in municipal buildings under this programme. The Department of Public Works, as the government asset manager, has also initiated an energy efficiency programme for public buildings under their jurisdiction.
- (b) Over the past 3 years approximately R300m has been disbursed to Eskom and municipalities for this purpose. Over and above this funding, Eskom also provides additional funding from the electricity tariff, in terms of which solar water heating is provided to households. This reduces the demand for electricity, and it is estimated that approximately 30% of the electricity bill can be saved through this intervention. As at June 2011, approximately 115 000 solar water heating units had been installed in various households across the country. Whilst the programme has achieved a level of scale in the low-income segment, the high income segment has not taken the solar water heater opportunity to the same level. There are still challenges relating to the capital cost of the solar water units, relative to the savings that would result from its installation. The department is finalizing a funding model that will increase the uptake of

the units, without depending entirely of fiscal subsidies. Through this scheme (called the standard offer programme or SOP) the localization of the units will be a condition for participation by suppliers.