

BACKGROUND

The “Rooftop Solar PV Power Generation Project” provides electricity consumers with long-term debt financing for installation of rooftop solar photovoltaic power generation systems in Sri Lanka. The credit line of US \$ 50 million established by the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) through a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) provides the required financing on preferential terms. As part of the project, technical and commercial frameworks are introduced including technical guidelines and standards for solar rooftop systems that would add value in developing solar rooftop installations. The credit line is managed by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and funds are channeled to the beneficiaries through selected Banks (Participating Financial Institutions -PFI). The technical support is provided by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in close collaboration with MoF, Ministry of Power, Energy and Business Development (MoPE) and Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA).

Power generated through the Rooftop Solar PV Installations can be integrated with the National grid through the Utility Providers in Sri Lanka, namely Ceylon Electricity Board and Lanka Electricity Company Private Limited under the following three schemes.

ROOFTOP SOLAR POWER GENERATION SCHEMES:

Net Metering Scheme

Net metering is a billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity they add to the grid.

This means the consumer has to pay only for the net amount of electricity consumed during a month. If the solar electricity supplied to the grid is more than the electricity consumption during a month, the balance amount can be carried forward to future as a credit, up to a maximum of ten years. No payment will be made for the excess electricity supplied over the consumption under this scheme.

Net Accounting Scheme

If the generated units of electricity using the solar panels fixed on houses/premises are greater than the amount consumed, the excess will be paid at the rate of Rs.22.00 per unit during the first 07 years and from the 8th year onwards at the rate of Rs.15.50 per unit by the Utility Provider.

If the consumption is greater than the generated units, the consumer has to pay at the existing electricity tariff for the excess electricity consumed.

Net Plus Scheme

This involves getting paid for the amount of electricity generated using the solar panels fixed on the premises. Unlike the net metering method there is no linkage between the electricity consumption of the customer and the electricity generation. Two separate meters will be installed to measure import and export of electricity separately.

The customer has to pay for the electricity consumed according to the existing tariff whilst the Utility Provider will pay for the total amount of electricity the customer generates.