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Budget 2018-19 is not very encouraging for the renewable and solar energy sector. The government has missed out on a major opportunity to take a lead towards combating climate change. The recently released Economic Survey highlights the impact of climate change in India especially to farmers. It mentions that rainfall extremities have increased in the past 10 years and climate change can potentially reduce farmer's income by the range of 20-25%. Renewable Energy, especially solar can play a very crucial role to reduce the impact of climate change on our communities. Unfortunately budget has not taken steps to create an eco-system which would make combating climate change a possibility. The budget has very limited allocation to MINRE with a target to achieve 11 GW of installations in the next financial year. Allocation to SECI has also seen a reduction. A large chunk of the coal cess which was earlier transferred to National Clean Energy Fund now goes towards GST compensation fund. The budget does not talk about any alternative mechanism which would fund clean energy installations in India. In terms of energy security, currently we import 85-90% of our solar modules, which threatens our energy security. The current provision in the budget does not mention any support for the manufacturing industry which has been highly discouraging for the sector. We hope that government will take additional steps to increase installations of solar power plants by providing direct and indirect support

So eventually the 'election year' has taken the shine away from the 'Sun'. It is disappointing to see that the solar energy sector has been ignored in this year's budget. It was much awaited that the Finance Minister would clear the government's view on customs duty on solar cells and modules, but that has not materialized. Overall, with its overriding focus on farmers, the budget is expected to give a boost to rural consumption which in turn will help India achieve its much higher GDP forecasts for the next year



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The budget focuses on uplifting living in rural India. Except the vocational level job oriented sectors textile, leather etc., it does not address any specific Industrial sector. As far as Infrastructure sector is concerned the Budget mentions some of the schemes which can be considered as opportunities like Smart Cities, Ganga cleaning, potable water distribution and railways the budget remains silent on addressing the issues being faced by Infrastructure industry in India which is reeling under pending litigations, absence and in fact waning banking support, inefficient and opaque procedures. The government needs to take up policy initiatives in order to achieve efficient, transparent and healthy EPC industry not only for realization of its development programs proposed in the Budget but also keeping in view the large size Infrastructure projects needs to address these issues particular EPC companies undertaking project exports are facing enormous procedural and outdated issues