

Solar Thermal Federation of India

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Summary of the event on Roadmap on Solar Water Heater (SWH) in New Delhi 28th July, 2015

The event was inaugurated by Shri. Tarun Kapoor, Jt. Secretary – Solar, MNRE as secretary MNRE could not make it due to his last minute engagement of attending a government function.

Mangal Akole (Chairman – STFI) welcomed the August gathering. In his inaugural address he gave the overview of the Solar Thermal market development in India and appealed the industry to give due recognition similar to Solar PV considering India is one of the top 5 nations globally in the solar thermal development, he brought the attention that if MNRE identified with the target of 140 million sqm is explored it can result in saving of 16 thousand GWh of electricity, he also said stretched upon that nearly 80% of manufacturing components in solar thermal is domestic hence more APT for Make in India. To propel the market the government consider various alternatives to capital subsidy like mandatory by law by urban local bodies' electricity rebates, penalty on electricity tariff for non SWH's consumer, income tax rebates. Individuals and intensifying manufacturing and awareness in states with less than 10% of market share.

Shri Tarun Kapoor (Joint Secretary – Solar, MNRE) assured full support to the industry and agreed to look into the suggestions and protect the domestic industries. Strict measures like anti-dumping will be accorded priority. MNRE will continue to support awareness and publicity involving STFI. He further said that a 'mark of seal' will be developed for manufactures' product which will help the consumers to identify the quality of the product and asked STFI to work out the mechanism. Presently SWH is in transition business post subsidy and will in all likely rebound to peak levels by 2017. MNRE is planning several awards for manufacturers who achieve good results, details of which will be announced shortly. Finally he said that pending capital subsidy will be settled as early as possible and requested IREDA to give at most priority.

Sohail Atkar (Director - Solar Thermal, MNRE) presented the success of solar drying in Ladakh region, he also assured to work in close co-ordination with STFI.

R.S. Sethuraman of Solar Hitech Geysers in his presentation suggested measures to restrict the cheaper imports. CENVAT exemption recently announced in the Union budget was hardly useful as traders are using manipulative measures to get duties exempted, which otherwise is only applicable to manufacturers. The CVD (Excise) exemption which was available for the components used for SWH manufacturing is being continued. Hence the trader importers taking this route continue to import systems in SKD mode and avail the CVD exemption.

T. Ananth (CEO, Nuetech Solar) presented the case study of Bangalur electricity Supply Company which has a mandatory rule to install SWH in all forthcoming buildings since 2011. Over 4 lakh houses have so far opted for SWH and the state is presently saving 750 million units annually this can be imitated by other DISCOMs in the country.

Mr. V.K. Gupta (Chief Manager – Renewables, International Copper) highlighted the need for capacity building workshops in the country to ensure considering the availability of sufficient technicians considering the huge target sets by MNRE. He shared the success story of training programs under taken during the UNDP –GEF project earlier.

Jaideep N. Malaviya (Secretary General - STFI) presented the attractiveness of payback through personal income tax rebates, shared the case study of USA where the market has grown over 1,600 % since its introduction in 2006. He also presented about introducing an heating obligation similarly to Renewable purchase obligation and Solar purchase obligation targeted at industries and commercial houses.

Chairman – STFI Mr. MD. Akole proposed the vote of thanks and invited all those manufactures not member of STFI to join the body and show solidarity to the sector.

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