



Renewable Energy to play a larger role in growing Economy: Farooq Abdullah

New and renewable energy will increasingly play a larger role in meeting the development aspirations of a growing economy like India. This was stated by Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, while visiting Solar Energy Centre (SEC) at Gurgaon today. He said that the SEC should emerge as a "Centre of Excellence" for all R&D activities in the country and added that young scientists should be encouraged to work in the Centre. Shri Deepak Gupta, Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy was also present on the occasion.

Emphasising the importance of solar energy, Dr. Abdullah said that this energy is amenable for decentralized location in village areas and also on the rooftops in urban areas. This feature will enable the energy to be used for commercial and industrial applications in urban areas. He appreciated SEC's role in applications research in solar energy specially for improving the system efficiency and reliability of various solar thermal and photovoltaic systems. Observing that renewable energy is environment-friendly, and pollution-free, the Minister advocated cost effective methods for making its use within the reach of the common man.

Dr. Abdullah urged the Centre to forge better industry-partnership so that the low-cost technology can be transferred to the people in an efficient manner by developing affordable products for facilitating lab-to-land transfer. He was apprised of the work being done at SEC with international collaboration to improve the reliability and life of photovoltaic modules. In a presentation to the Minister, Dr. Bandhopadhyay, Director of SEC outlined the industry collaborative efforts of the Centre and highlighted the international tie-ups forged by the SEC to make renewable energy more technologically viable.

Expressing satisfaction over work being carried out at SEC, Dr. Abdullah stressed the need to strengthen the Centre for undertaking larger role in R&D, promotion and propagation of solar energy in the country and abroad. He emphasized the need to enlarge the role of SEC so as to act as a hub of entire R&D activities in the country in the field of solar energy and also assured the Centre all possible help in this regard.

SEC is a premier R&D institution of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy located at Gwalpahari, Gurgaon which undertakes pioneering research in the field of renewable energy such as solar thermal and photovoltaic systems. The Minister visited the R&D and test facilities at the SEC such as solar cell characterization lab, module testers, environmental conditioning units of modules, battery research and evaluation facility, solar thermal test facility, etc.