

 **Two Advanced Photovoltaic System at sec inaugurated**

Shri Vilas Muttemwar, Minister of State for the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has said that Solar Energy Centre is now well equipped to meet the emerging requirement of industry as per international standards. Inaugurating two Advanced Solar Photovoltaic facilities at Solar Energy Centre (SEC) at Gwalpahari, Haryana, Shri Muttemwar said that a great milestone has been achieved by SEC through updating itself to the international standards. These Facilities include a large area Sun Simulator and a Photovoltaic Concentrator Module Test Bed. He said that the Government would help SEC in getting accreditation from International Electro Technical Commission on quality assurance in the field of Solar Photovoltaic. Shri Muttemwar expressed the hope that with the help of dedicated and enthusiastic manpower at SEC the international accreditation would be available shortly.

The Minister said there is a boom in PV industry all over the world and has also been gearing up to meet the challenge of large-scale demand of solar cells. Referring to recent announcement of policy for grid connected power production from both solar photovoltaic and solar thermal route Shri Muttemwar said that the Government would provide generation based incentives upto Rs. 12 kw per hour for getting connected SEC power plant and Rs.10 kw per hour for solar thermal power plant.

The large area sun simulator will make possible to evaluate the performance of PV modules of size 200cm X 200cm, the capacity of which can be around 600 W. Initiatives have already been taken by SEC to design and procure environmental chambers to accommodate such large area modules for their qualification testing. It is expected that the complete test facility for large area modules will be in place within a year so that performance and qualification testing of large area PV modules can be undertaken at SEC as per international standards. The center is also in the process of obtaining international accreditation of the test facility. This facility would help PV module manufacturers of the country to test their product in India and find a market in other countries of the world.

The other system inaugurated by the Minister is a Photovoltaic Concentrator Module Test Bed. This facility is unique of its kind in India and uses the latest high efficiency multi junction concentrator solar cells technology modules. The concentrator modules require less area of solar cells and therefore use less amount of expensive semiconductor material. These are essentially the third generation PV technology that promises high efficiency low cost systems with economically competitive cost of electricity generation.

Earlier in his welcome address Dr. B. Bandyopadhyay, Head of Solar Energy Centre and Adviser in the Ministry gave details about the Solar Energy Centre.