

"Popularise new energy sources"

Industry, local bodies can contribute: official

Staff Reporter

SIVAGANGA: Union Secretary for New and Renewable Energy V. Subramanian has called for a movement to popularise new and renewable energy sources to meet the national energy demand.

Delivering the keynote address at the Central Electrochemical and Research Institute at Karaikudi, near here, to mark the foundation day of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, he said producing alternative sources of energy such as wind power, biomass, hydel power and solar power was the need for the hour.

"The country has immense potential to produce renewable energy. Industrial houses, educational institutions, local bodies and even individuals can contribute to the energy demand by installing wind plants or solar energy systems on their premises."

• **Globally, India fifth in production of new energy**

• **Tamil Nadu leading producer of wind energy in country**

Renewable energy was almost equal to nuclear energy. The country must see a revolution in installation and commercialisation of renewable energy as was the case in mobile phone revolution. It would not only bring down the cost of production but also benefit consumers.

Ambitious target

Mr. Subramanian said the current installed capacity of renewable energy was around 10,600 MW. The Ministry had set an ambitious target of producing 14,000 MW in addition to the existing capacity. Globally, the country

stood fifth in the production of new and renewable energy and fourth in the production of wind power.

Tamil Nadu was the leading producer of renewable energy in the country. The State recorded more than 50 percent of wind power production. It had also done well in other sources such as biomass gas, hydel and solar power. Availability of technically qualified manpower and presence of high velocity wind zones such as Palakad, Sherkottai and Aralvoo Mozhi passes were important factors.

Setting up of offshore windmill projects was not on the cards at the moment as the cyclone-prone coastline was not suitable for installing them, he said.

A.K. Shukla, Director, CECRI, S. Johan, Deputy Director, and C. Sri Vidya Rajagopalan, Senior Scientist, CECRI, spoke.