

 **WE MUST RECOGNISE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF ENERGY SECURITY-
PRESIDENT**

**NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CELEBRATES SILVER JUBILEE
SOLAR HOME LIGHT IN MORE THAN 3000 VILLAGES AND 830 HAMLETS**

Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, said that today as we aim for a 10% growth rate we must recognise the critical importance of energy security. We will need a new paradigm of energy security to address our development goals which are environmental friendly and leads to sustainable developments. Inaugurating the Silver Jubilee function of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, the President further said that today India is among the global leaders in the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies, we need to significantly augment our efforts in front line research and development. Paying tribute to Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, Smt. Patil said her vision was translated into vigorous action by Shri Rajiv Gandhi to meet the increasing demands for energy.

Appreciating the increasing involvement of the private sector in the renewable energy sector, she said we have to concentrate in this sector. She said we have to secure our planet for future generations. Excess to critical and promising clean, new and renewable energy technologies to developing countries should be the keys in the global environment agenda.

Our endeavour is to make India a leader in the New and Renewable Energy sector in the shortest possible time. All the people of the country, in all walks of life, should come together to promote the use of renewable energy as a National Movement.

Shri Vilas Muttemwar, Minister, New & Renewable Energy said there is need to maximum development of domestic energy supply options in context of spiralling oil prices as well as need to diversify energy sources. Thus renewable remain very important to India's energy sectors. Mr. Muttemwar said that the ministry can take pride that the new & renewable energy sources-solar, wind, small hydro and bio-energy-are making a significant contribution to the Nation's energy mix. This has been possible due to 25 years of sustained endeavours. This energy supplements conventional fossil fuel based energy sources as well as meeting power needs in remote and rural areas of the country.

The Minister said this carbon free energy is now in global focus and is the ultimate answer to the climate change and global warming. The installed grid interactive renewal power generation capacity has crossed 11000MW today of which 7700MW is from wind power. India is ranking 4th in this sector after Germany, Spain and USA. Around 3.9million family type biogas plants have been set up in rural areas. Mr. Muttemwar informed that a National Policy on Biofuels is under consideration and a Hydro Energy Road map has been prepared by a group of eminent persons headed by Shri Ratan Tata. The Minister was hopeful that during 11th plan, renewal power capacity addition will be to the tune of 14000MW and will cover 10000 villages.

Shri Shakeel Ahmad, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology said that the Department of Posts is happy to issue a set of four Commemorative Postage Stamps on Renewable Energy depicting the four common applications of renewable energy i.e. solar energy, wind energy, small hydro power and bio-mass energy. These stamps will spread the message of using environment friendly, carbon free renewable energy where ever they go.

These Postal stamps and a Compendium on Renewable Energy cover 25 years of renewable energy in India were released by President today. It consists of 17 chapters on various new and renewable energy technologies as well as programmes that have been emerged during last 25 years.

On this occasion a new website of the Ministry with additional user-friendly features and expanded contents was also inaugurated. The renewable energy awards were given to various states, banks, independent power producers and manufactures for the best performance in their respective areas. The awards have been given for the 10th Five Year plan period excluding Solar Water Heater, where the awards have been given for the financial year 2006-07.

Awardees are:

Biogas Programme - Uttarakhand (First Prize – Special category of NE States and hilly States)

Second Prize - Sikkim – Special category of NE State and hilly States)

First Prize - West Bengal (General Category)

Second Prize – Gujarat (General Category)

Solar Photovoltaic: Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand (Special Category)

First Prize - Rajasthan (General Category)

Second Prize – Haryana (General Category)

Solar Cooker – Box Type:

First Prize – Gujarat

Solar Cooker – Dish Type:

First Prize – Haryana

Best Bank to promote Solar Water Heater system _

Bank of Maharashtra

Best Branch to provide maximum amount of loan for Solar Heater –

Canara Bank

Wind Power

First Prize _ Tamilnadu

Second Prize – Maharashtra

Promotion of Solar Energy – Urban Area

First Prize – Haryana

Independent Power Producers under the Wind Programme –

First Prize - M/S MSPL Limited, Hospet (Karnataka)

Second Prize - M/S Essel Mining & Industries Limited, Kolkata

Best Industry to manufacture and marketing Solar Water Heater:

First Prize – M/S Tata BP Solar India Limited, Bangalore

Second Prize – M/S Emmvee Solar Systems Pvt. Limited, Bangalore