

SOLAR THERMAL FEDERATION OF INDIA

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Salient issues discussed by Solar Water Heater manufactures in MNRE at New Delhi on 5th February, 2016.

- **Mr. Sohail Akhtar, Director Solar Thermal –MNRE** opened the meeting by welcoming all industry representatives and explained the meeting agenda.
- Channel Partners expressed their agony on account of non-receipt of capital subsidy money from State Nodal Agency's despite MNRE having realized the money they requested for immediate settlement without further delay.
- Jt. Secretary (Solar), MNRE informed that by March 2016 MNRE (Ministry of New & Renewable Energy) will try to settle all the pending subsidies subject to completion of documentation by IREDA.
- Members of STFI, considering the time taken for scrutiny by IREDA and the financial year end nearing, put a suggestion to release payment on adhoc basis as below:
- Amount equivalent to 50% of all the pending subsidy claims uploaded on "SOLARWIN " software, without Third Party Inspection report, which was as per the original order of MNRE while announcing capital subsidy scheme, after adjusting ad hoc payment released earlier as well as loan, if any.
- Amount equivalent to 75% of all the pending subsidy claims uploaded on "SOLARWHIN " software, with Third Party Inspection report, after adjusting ad hoc payment released earlier as well as loan, if any.
- Jt. Secretary discussed the possibility with IREDA officials and agreed to issue necessary letter to IREDA for immediate action.
- This will give relief to the manufacturers in their balance sheet.
- STFI members strongly pitched to immediate come out with mandatory BIS standards for complete solar water heating system using Flat Plate Collector as well as Evacuated Glass Tubes.
MNRE informed that the announcement to this effect will be made within a month's time.
- Chairman, STFI (Solar Thermal Federation of India) requested for measures to be taken by MNRE for the mandatory compliances of SWH in all upcoming residential buildings as well as gradually in existing buildings, we also suggested framing separate HS cods for tubes and import of complete SWH / COMPONENTS OTHER THAN TUBE in SKD/CKD conditions.
- Since there was no format available for gathering data for installation happened post of subsidy, hence Jt. Secretary requested to immediate contact all manufactures and get approximate figures of 2013 -14 & 2015-15.
- Mr. Sachin Shah of Star Energy suggested to put the list of all ETC & FPC Direct Channel Partners in the SOLARWIN link similar SPIN for rooftop PV. MNRE asked NIC to modify the software.
- STFI members also suggested the property tax and electricity bill rebates may be introduced on a national level and STFI may be invited to organize the conference with Chief Engineers of Municipal Corporation and electricity utility companies.
- Mr. M.D. Akole of AKson's Solar pointed out that the storage tanks leakages have been an issue of concern since most parts of country have hardness in water. He suggested NISE may take an R& D project to develop a low cost material tank that may withstand the hardness in water.

- Mr. M.D. Akole further suggested that a renewable heating obligation policy may be debated by MNRE to encourage industrial SWH projects.
- STFI requested MNRE to allocate separate budget for awareness creation and capacity building.
- He also informed that MSME ministry provides reimbursement to enterprise for the cost incurred / paid for obtaining BIS license.
- Jt. Secretary (Solar), MNRE informed the MNRE will provide partial subsidy for unique demonstrative projects and invited manufactures to provide their proposals.
- MNRE asked STFI to help in designing the advertisement for awareness creation by providing the contents and also to undertake capacity building workshops targeting different segments as given below:
 - 1) Freelance plumbers / electricians / other technicians: 25 per batch x 40 programs of 2-3 day=1000 No.(This could be largely for developing plumbers and technicians for installations and maintenance).
 - 2) Technicians employees of Manufacturers / Direct Channel Partners / Integrators: 30 per batch x 20 programs of 2-3 day= 600 technicians.
 - 3) Engineers employed by Manufacturers / Direct Channel Partners / Integrators: 20 per batch x 5 programs of 2 week duration for system design / engineering.
 - 4) Architects and Town planners: 40 per batch x 25 programs= 1000 No.
 - 5) Users from manufacturing Industries/ Hospitality industry / educational institutions / hostels/ hospitals / builders: 25 per batch x 40 programs= 1000 No.
- Jt. Secretary also suggested STFI may participate in national level 'Camps' held in the country like "Make in India" etc.
- Jt. Secretary also assured that they will strengthen the Regional Test Centers considering the high volume of collectors required to be tested, after BIS becomes mandatory.
- Pending BIS being made mandatory and considering the time required for the number of industries to get licenses, Jt. Secretary suggested that Star Rating criteria for solar water heaters can be finalized and implemented to create some quality standards. Director Solar Thermal.
MNRE shall share information available from the working group formed by MNRE.