

Janitor wanted.

"More pain than gain"
Click for the whole story >>

Karnataka

BANGALORE: Setting a target of creating a biomass power generation capacity of 10,000 MW in the country in the next 10 years, the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has decided to come out with a biomass power policy to chart out a roadmap for harnessing biomass power.

1

Disclosing this to the press at the sidelines of a national workshop on dedicated plantation-based biomass power and energy jointly organised by the Ministry and the Karnataka State Forest Industries Corporation here on Tuesday, New and Renewable Energy Secretary Deepak Gupta said the policy was expected to be ready in three months.

It is the States which have to play a pro-active role in providing a boost to biomass power sector by evolving their own policies, he said. The Ministry was trying to involve the States in its endeavour by holding such workshops.

The excess biomass in the country was sufficient to generate 10,000 MW of power, he said.

Call

He called for utilising waste and degraded lands, including those in the forest area for the purpose.

Pointing out that biomass power plants could operate at a plant load factor of 85 per cent as against solar plants which have a lesser plant load factor, he said that the target of generating 10,000 MW of biomass power was equivalent of generating 50,000 MW of solar power.

Dedicated plantations

To ensure the availability of biomass for the power plant throughout the year, the Ministry was now promoting the concept of taking up dedicated biomass plantations that would be linked to power plants, Mr. Gupta said.

This would not only help reduce the country's power shortage but would also provide several socio-economic benefits in the rural areas as steady power supply in villages could bring about a positive change there, he added.

Setting up small biomass power plants at the tail end of the power grid would help reduce energy losses besides stabilising voltage level, he said.

Inked

The absence of secretaries to the Forest Department from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu at the workshop irked Mr. Gupta.

"It is unfortunate and not a good thing. If I can come from Delhi, why a person from Bangalore cannot make it to the workshop?" he asked.

Making a technical presentation, New and Renewable Energy Director D.K. Khare called upon the States to form State-level nodal agencies to promote biomass power besides evolving their own policies.

KSFIC Managing Director A.K. Varma said that Karnataka had good potential for biomass power. Grameena Abhivrudhi Mandali president K. Krishnan spoke on the prospects and challenges in biomass power projects. KSFIC Chairman Shankaregouda Patil spoke.