CALLING THE ATTENTION OF NGOs, RURAL CO-OPERATIVES and ENTREPRENEURS, POWER GENERATING EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS, ACADEMIA, R&D AGENCIES and CONSULTANTS!

Distributed Generation by way of setting up small generating units based on a variety of local fuels along with localised distribution, has been identified as one of the alternatives for ensuring supply of power in rural areas. In order to utilise technology for providing an affordable solution in making available electricity in rural areas, the Ministry of Power has constituted a Rural Electricity Supply Technology (REST) Mission.

The terms of reference of the Mission are:

- to evolve a strategy based on technology which could provide for low cost power generation and low cost of delivery in the rural areas, which can be managed by local institutions like Village Panchayats and NGOs.

- to identify feasible size of generating units for different fuels, which are locally available, and for mini and micro hydel projects.

- to suggest type of technologies to be adopted for setting up local distribution networks with or without connectivity to the Grid and to cover at least 25% of the villages in the country under the Mission.

- to assess funds requirement for the next two Plans.

In order to achieve the national objective of "Power for All" by 2012, Ministry of Power has targeted 100% village electrification by 2007 and to provide access to electricity for all households by 2012. Ministry of Power is currently assessing various decentralised generation technologies to ensure that electricity is available to each household on demand, with special emphasis on rural households, with direct involvement of local bodies, users' associations, NGOs, cooperatives, entrepreneurs, power generating equipment manufacturers and energy service providers.

A National Workshop on **"Distributed Generation Technologies for Power Supply in Rural Areas"**, is being organised by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, under the auspices of the Ministry of Power and Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, **on 24th - 25th January, 2003 in New Delhi.**

The Seminar will mainly focus on the following:

- Government initiatives and approach for Rural Electrification.

- Techno-economics of various distributed power generation technologies and their current status, such as: solar photo-voltaic power systems, independent home lighting systems, bio-mass, small/ mini hydel, wind, fuel cells, micro gas turbines, DG sets, hybrid systems, etc.

- Identification of those technologies which show promise of breakthroughs or where cost reduction is possible due to economies of scale or standardisation or technological improvement.

- Experience sharing from NGOs, rural entrepreneurs and cooperatives on 'Success Stories' of various rural electricity supply systems.

It is proposed to examine the available basket of technologies for distributed power generation and identify a few leading candidates for adoption of those technologies that provide practical, operable, deliverable and sustainable solutions. It is further proposed to operate such technologies through public and private corporates such as REC, CPRI, NTPC, BHEL, Wartsila, Kirloskar, etc. There is a proposal to bring in an element of subsidy needed through the process of bidding at the level of village operators, NGOs, cooperatives, etc. The modalities will depend upon the outcome of the workshop. The above agencies will adopt, innovate and develop the appropriate technology(ies) to a level of maturity along with the rural entrepreneurs, NGOs, cooperatives, etc.

If you are engaged in Distributed Power Generation, or if you have any working proposal for generation of power in rural areas, please send your paper/ proposal to:

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Selected parties will be invited to make presentations on their technologies and experiences in the National Workshop.