

SCOPE - GIZ, Germany organise workshop on 'Decarbonisation of India's PSEs and the Role of Green Hydrogen'



(L-R) Shri Atul Sobti, Director General, SCOPE; Dr. Stephan Hesselmann, Minister Counsellor, Economic Affairs, German Embassy; Shri Ajay Yadav (IAS), Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE); Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, GAIL (India) Ltd.; Ms. Ruchika Drall, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC); Shri Farhad Vania from GIZ during the workshop in New Delhi.

Understanding the emergence of Green Hydrogen as an alternative fuel is driven by its potential to address climate change, achieve decarbonization goals, enhance energy security, and stimulate economic development. Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), India in association with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany, organised a Workshop on "Decarbonisation of India's Public Sector Enterprises and the Role of Green Hydrogen" on 12th March 2024 at SCOPE complex, New Delhi. The objective of the Workshop was to sensitize about various ways of decarbonisation

with a focus on Green Hydrogen, its techno-commercial aspects, and financing options for related projects.

The inaugural session aimed to set a positive tone, build enthusiasm, and create a sense of community among participants with regard to Green Hydrogen. Shri Ajay Yadav (IAS), Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE); Dr. Stephan Hesselmann, Minister Counsellor, Economic Affairs, German Embassy; Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, GAIL (India) Ltd.; Ms. Ruchika Drall, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC);

Shri Farhad Vania from GIZ and Shri Atul Sobti, Director General, SCOPE addressed the Inaugural Session.

During the opening address, Shri Atul Sobti, while highlighting the staggering contribution of PSEs to the national economy and employment generation also underlined the green initiatives of the PSEs despite of their presence in hard to abate sectors. Reiterating the need for PSEs to explore alternative resources so as to reduce carbon emission without compromising on commercial prudence, he added that PSEs need to be exposed to the novel & alternate energy sources such as the Green

Hydrogen to encourage them to align their decarbonisation efforts with the national climate action agenda. Pronouncing the commitment of SCOPE in this regard, Shri Sobti highlighted the SCOPE-GIZ collaboration and also various works undertaken in the same.

Mr. Farhad Vania, Senior Portfolio Manager, GIZ India, providing the 'Program Perspective' commended the efforts of PSEs and also highlighted the role of PSEs in "Viksit Bharat 2047". He went on to explain the particular interest of German Government in various initiatives of India in decarbonisation which has led to a strong India-Germany cooperation.

He said that "the government of Germany has been quick to recognize what is going to power India to 2047. It has to be something to do with energy and that's why energy remains one of the big areas of bilateral cooperation between India and Germany." Moving on to outlining the structure of the Workshop, he assured effective and constructive engagement of GIZ with SCOPE.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Stephan Hesselmann, Minister Counsellor – Economic Affairs, German Embassy, besides highlighting complex issues related to climate change, common intentions of advancing to energy transition, recent collaborative climate action efforts taken by Indian and German Governments, he also emphasized how Green Hydrogen can replace the use of fossil fuels in various sectors and assured constant support from Germany in this regard.

He also reiterated the German ambassador's words – "In all our efforts against climate change, one thing is clear in fighting climate change the world cannot do without India and India cannot do without its Public Sector Enterprises."

During the address, Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, GAIL (India) Ltd. mentioned that CPSEs are working to facilitate demand creation through domestic utilization of Green Hydrogen and highlighted initiatives from several PSEs in this area. He also pointed out the need of undertaking techno-commercial studies by PSEs operating in hard-to-abate sectors of the economy. He appreciated SCOPE-GIZ collaboration by saying "I am glad that SCOPE has recognized this concern and collaborated with the GIZ for this important project with the aim to identify sustainable decarbonization efforts thereby providing PSEs with practical solutions."

Giving the Government perspective, Shri Ajay Yadav (IAS), Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) said that the electrification of every possible industry will lead to the demand creation for renewable and alternate sources of energy including Green Hydrogen. Highlighting the role of Green Hydrogen, he said that it has emerged as a fuel of the future because it can be used for industries where there is a limit to electrification and where the fossil fuels are used as feed stocks. He also took the opportunity to highlight various initiatives of the Government of India in this regard key being National Green

Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) which would go a long way in creating a Green Hydrogen ecosystem across the country for the successful implementation of the mission.

Ms. Ruchika Drall, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) highlighting the importance of India in the global forum said that the country is currently at a very crucial juncture in terms of the energy landscape due to its growing energy needs which is required to fuel its developmental activities. Highlighting the importance of non-conventional resources, she said that use of conventional energy sources that release abundant greenhouse gases could be devastating for the environment and hence, transition to clean technologies and processes is going to be very vital for meeting India's climate goals and tackling climate change. She also emphasised on the significant economic and social impacts and these implications can actually be termed as co-benefits.

During the session, the dignitaries also unveiled a study on "Decarbonising India - Potential for Electrification across India's Economy & Assessment of Electricity Needs", commissioned by GIZ's Indo-German Energy Forum Support Office (IGEF-SO).

More than 300 participants from 45 PSEs attended the workshop, both physically and virtually.

The details of select session of workshops have been summarised by Ms. Jasprit Kaur, Climate Change Advisor, GIZ India on Page No. 102.