State-wide platform to tap solar energy

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TIRUPUR : With severe power crisis continuing to threaten industrial prowess, a group of industrialists from Tirupur region have come together to float 'Solar Energy Association of Tamil Nadu' (SEAT) to promote tapping and use of solar energy through a consortium approach in industrial clusters across the State.

"Though only nine persons from the area are initially in the association for registration purpose, it will soon be enrolling entrepreneurs from various industrial clusters all over the State so as to help the industries become self-sufficient in its power needs within a year." Raju V.R. Palanisamy, a leading textile entrepreneur and president of the SEAT, told *The Hindu*

According to the plans, the association will float about 20 industrial cluster-wise Special Purpose Vehicles so as to set up operate medium to large scale solar parks in different parts of the State to cater to the energy consumption requirements of the respective nearby clusters.

- **Foreign investors evince interest**
- **Special Purpose Vehicle to be formed**

Advantage

"The advantage of consortium approach to form such solar parks with capacities ranging from 60 MW to 120 MW is that the credit for setting up solar power generation gadgets could be obtained easier and at lower costs vis-avis getting loans for individual solar panels for a unit', Mr. Palanisamy pointed out.

According to him, a minimum of about 60 percent of power generated from the solar parks will be used for captive consumption of the units which are part of the respective SPVs.

"The remaining power can be given to education institutions and other segments for a price to be fixed later," he said.

To offset the capital costs of setting up large scale parks, the association is even planning to attract foreign capital.

"During the course of our preliminary survey of floating the association, some foreign investors from the U.S. have shown interest provided we give requisite land for the parks," Mr. Palanisamy sid.

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