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9th November 2017

MESSAGE

The Government of India has recently come up with an important policy called the 'National Steel Policy' (NSP 2017) for the Indian steel sector. The policy aims to triple country's current steel production from 90 million tonnes (2015/16) to 300 million tonnes by 2030/31. The policy also stands out for three main objectives, namely, (i) increase the per-capita steel consumption from 61 kg (2015/16) to 160 kg by 2030/31; (ii) promote interventions of energy efficient (EE) technologies/practices; and (iii) reduce the carbon footprint of the steel industry significantly.

As per the projections made in the policy document, the secondary steel sector is expected to produce about 100 million tonnes by 2030/31. If this target is to be achieved, the steel production through the induction furnace route has to be stepped up from the current levels. Therefore, the coming years present both opportunities and challenges to the induction furnace sector in the country.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in association with the Ministry of Steel (MoS), has successfully executed a programme in two phases for transforming the secondary steel sector through introduction of energy efficient (EE) technologies/practices. While the first phase predominantly focused on transforming steel re-rolling mill (SRRM) units, the second phase piloted the EE technologies (EETs) in electric induction furnace units. On an average, the induction furnace-based units that operated on EETs are reportedly saving 93 units (kWh) of electricity per tonne of steel (specific power consumption).

The electric induction furnace sector comprises about 1300 units operating across the country. Needless to mention, this sector offers immense potential and scope for energy savings and reduction in greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions.

The All India Induction Furnace Association (AIIFA) provided us phenomenal support in trailing EE options during our second phase. I am delighted to know that AIIFA is continuing its efforts on cleaner and green steel production in the country. This one-day technical conference, "Strengthening Green Steel Production: Building Pillars for New India" on 24th November 2017, is testimony to this fact.

I hope the participants will discuss and deliberate on the current challenges to carve out a roadmap for the electric induction furnace sector in the country. UNDP will look forward to receiving the important outcomes of this conference.

I compliment AIIFA for providing this platform and wish the conference a grand success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S.N. Srinivas".

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