

One lakh solar lamps to be distributed

They will be given free of cost to the needy



ENERGY EFFICIENCY: Arcot N. Veeraswami, Electricity Minister, launching a programme of distributing solar energy-run lamps to the needy at a function in Chennai on Tuesday. He is flanked by K.E. Raghunaathan (left), managing director of Solkar Solar Industry Limited, and M.B. Nirmal, founder of Exnora International. — PHOTO: K. V. SRINIVASAN

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: Two Chennai-based organisations have come together to distribute one lakh solar energy-run lamps to the needy in the State by March.

Under a memorandum of understanding between Exnora International and Solkar Solar Industry Limited, one lakh solar lamps will be given free to economically weaker sections of society, who are using kerosene lamps. Once this target is achieved, about 45 lakh litres of kerosene can be saved annually.

Each volunteer of Exnora will identify two prospective end-users and donate the

lamps. The non-governmental organisation also planned to approach philanthropists or social service organisations to join in this endeavour. The MoU was signed between K.E. Raghunaathan, managing director of the company, and M.B. Nirmal, founder of Exnora, on Tuesday in the presence of Electricity Minister Arcot N. Veeraswami.

For six hours

Mr. Raghunaathan said each lamp could light up an area of 200 sq. ft. It could be used for six hours. It had provision for charging instruments such as mobile phones.

Mr. Nirmal called upon the Minister to hold a meeting for enlisting participation of government agencies in the campaign of energy conservation to be observed on September 9.

Mr. Veeraswami underscored the need for bringing down the prohibitive cost of solar energy. At present, 46 per cent of power supplied was going uncharged as free supply accounted for 28 per cent and line loss 18 per cent. The Electricity Board was incurring a loss of Rs.7,000 crore annually. The execution of the Central scheme of rural electrification would be completed by December.

DC



NO TO KEROSENE LAMPS: Solkar Industry Ltd and Exnora International signed an MoU in the presence of state electricity minister Arcot N. Veerasamy on Tuesday to provide one Lakh solar lamps to the needy to be used instead of kerosene lamps and thereby save 45 lakh litres of kerosene every year.

CITY