

**One-day workshop on “Energy Management in Tile industries”
at Sidharth Regency, Thrissur, on 27th March 2003**

**gov.inanised by EMC-Kerala
supported by Department of Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Kerala**

Recognizing at an early stage itself the paramount role of the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector in providing employment opportunities, mobilizing local skills and capital resources, and in the process of integrating the local economy with globalising processes, Government of India has been according special consideration to SSI sector, right from the time the first industrial policy resolution of 1948 was adopted. The Industry Policy measures announced in 1991 and the State Government policies also laid special emphasis on promotion and strengthening of small and medium industries in the country.

The industrial scenario in developing countries in the liberalized and competitive economic environment has compelled countries like India to effect structural and fundamental changes in the policy framework, and accordingly, in the post reform period, the main focus has shifted from ‘protection’ to ‘promotion’ of SSI sector through a number of steps including establishment of Growth Centres, adoption of Cluster Approach for better networking and exploiting synergies, and for providing incentives for improving competitiveness through technology upgradation and capacity building, as also by partial dereservation, change in investment limits etc.

Recently, energy efficiency and conservational technologies and measures related to them have received attention from all concerned, like policy makers, industrial associations and enterprises, as possible means of enhancing competitiveness, conserving scarce resources and improving the environment in the face of increased industrial activities. It is a foregone conclusion that small scale and medium scale enterprises and enterprises of similar scale in India are comparatively less efficient and less economic than that of the developed countries. The poor energy and environmental performance and standards are inextricably linked to the lack of technical, managerial and financial capabilities in these enterprises to identify, access and adopt improved technologies and production methods.

In the above context and with reference to the present initiatives by the Government of Kerala to help the traditional industries in the State, EMC has commenced a project on “Energy Management In Tile Industries (clay roofing & flooring)”, to simultaneously aid entrepreneurs and policy makers to come out with programs to revive this sector. EMC has received the concurrence of the State Planning Board for this research project of 18 months duration, which aims at:

- a) Identifying the optimum mix of technology-management options to reduce the operating energy costs in the traditional tile industry and
- b) Addressing the economics of the energy management policy options.

EMC would be associating with different gov.inanisations like Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Government of Kerala, National Small Industries Corporation, Small Industries Service Institute, Small Industries Development Bank of India, District Industries Centre, etc. for the successful conduct of this program.

As part of the project, we are planning to initially identify:

- the present status (technology, manufacturing, marketing, human resources, etc.)

- § the present problems faced by these unit
- market demand of clay roofing/flooring tiles
 - tile industries' need/requirement for support from Government, etc.

by gov.inanizing a survey/study.

In order to present the above plan and also solicit information from the tile units, EMC is gov.inanising a one-day kick-off workshop at Trichur on 27th March 2003 at Hotel Sidharth Regency, Kokkalai, Thrissur.

<i>Registration:</i>	<i>0930 – 1000 hrs</i>
<i>Inaugural session</i>	<i>1000 – 1030 hrs</i>
<i>Presentations & Discussions</i>	<i>1100 – 1630 hrs</i>

National/State Government gov.inanizations working in the SSI sector, leading Financial Institutions/Banks, experts in SSI sector and Tile industry associations apart from Tile industry entrepreneurs, mainly from Thrissur, Kozhikode and Kollam would be represented in the workshop.

EMC has successfully developed and commissioned a cost-effective Information Technology based Temperature Monitoring and Alerting System (TMAS) at Raja Tiles, Karuvannur, Thrissur. EMC has allocated a small R&D grant component to financially assist a few tile industries in Kerala to install the TMAS; details of that scheme also would be announced during the workshop, so that interested parties can fix-up dates for a pre-feasibility investigation by officers from EMC during 28th to 31st March 2003.

In case any interested party has not received our invitation to participate in the workshop, please register by sending your name, designation, affiliation and your areas of interest to EMC by post or fax (0471 2345887) or email (emck@vsnl.com) before 24th March 2003. Please note that participants are limited to 40 numbers for meaningful discussions.