

AatmaNirbhar Bharat - BHEL extends support to indigenous suppliers including MSMEs to develop self-reliance in manufacturing

New Delhi, December 22: India's largest engineering and manufacturing enterprise, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), has been spearheading the Make in India movement with a special focus on contributing to the AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. Towards developing self-reliance in manufacturing, BHEL has taken the lead in reaching out to local industry including MSME (Micro, Small & Medium) vendors as potential partners. As a step in this direction, the company is organising a series of interactive workshops, titled 'BHEL Samvaad', under the guidance of the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI).

The first in the series of online workshops on collaborative manufacturing, saw a cross-section of Indian Industries, Industrial houses and MSMEs coming together to dwell upon the next steps for increased cooperation in indigenous manufacturing. The workshop also aimed at fostering better utilisation of assets for development of technologies and products.

Chaired by Sh. Arun Goel, Secretary (HI), the workshop was attended by more than 80 participants, comprising senior representatives of Industry Chambers like CII, IEEMA, FICCI, PHDCCI, ASSOCHAM, etc., BHEL's vendors, other MSMEs, and other leading industries.

The event which was also telecast live on BHEL's official Facebook page and YouTube channel had more than 1500 participants.

Secretary (HI) in his keynote address lauded BHEL's move for developing local suppliers and taking forward the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Expressing concern over the pandemic's impact on economies across the world, Mr. Goel said that lockdowns across geographies have resulted in massive supply chain disruptions and this has made many countries rethink on overdependence on imports and the need for being self-sufficient. The Secretary said that while BHEL has already been leading the movement for Make in India, 'BHEL Samvaad', is a welcome move for initiating discussions with MSMEs and the local industry with an intent to getting imported items manufactured in India. During his address he emphasized over the need of Indian vendors (Public and Private) to join hands to address the market with indigenous technology at competitive rates and world-class quality.

The plenary address by Sh. D. K. Singh, Additional Secretary & Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME highlighted the strength of the MSME ecosystem in India. He mentioned that it was heartening to see BHEL come forward with a collaborative approach for the domestic industry – both in terms of sharing and offering many items, and also setting the platform for innovation. He called upon all the 18 MSME Technology centres to collaborate with BHEL in this regard. He also assured the collaboration of Tool Rooms under the MSME Ministry with BHEL to help address the indigenisation efforts in many business segments.

DPIIT which was represented by Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Director, DPIIT, shared highlights of the policies formulated by Govt. of India to ensure fair and equal opportunities to local industries in their pursuit towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat.

Welcoming participants to the workshop, Dr. Shinghal, CMD BHEL said that BHEL has been, for decades, a major player in power equipment, and is also looking beyond it in a big way – into transportation, infrastructure for Oil & Gas, Defence and Aerospace and other sunrise sectors. It intends to offer indigenous products with indigenous supply chains. He stressed on the need for engaging the manufacturing ecosystem of the country, for developing indigenous capabilities, enhancing competitiveness and reducing dependence on the neighbouring economy. He also emphasized on the important role that can be played by MSMEs through innovation efforts to enhance the competitiveness of BHEL. Addressing participants, he said that BHEL is interested in indigenisation of more than 300 items across 9 categories, currently imported by our 16 manufacturing units, valued at over Rs.3,000 Crore per annum, and the company is looking forward to their active participation for mutual growth.

During the workshop, BHEL made a detailed presentation of the business opportunities for the Indian business community in terms of items that BHEL seeks to source locally. BHEL also revealed the support that would be extended to vendors in developing indigenous offerings with an indigenous supply chain. The interactive session witnessed multiple queries on technical and commercial issues from the participating business representatives evincing keen interest in working with BHEL.
