



**MARK HIS WORDS:** Mr Misra delivering key note address while inaugurating the event

December 10, 2010 saw New Delhi playing host to an important event in the history of metal recycling industry. The seminar organized by The Metal Recycling Association of India (MRAI) on metal recycling was one of the rarest of occasions when officials from different ministries like commerce, steel and shipping came together, sat and interacted with the industry. More importantly, the function was successful in sensitizing the government and sending out the important message about the need for a comprehensive national policy on recycling in the country to pave way for a robust growth of the industry.

The full-day programme at New Delhi's Le Meridian was an eye-opener for many of those

## MRAI

# Towards a national policy on recycling

The December workshop on metal recycling in Delhi saw an impassioned appeal to formulate a comprehensive framework for the industry which is playing a key role for sustainable development



**ENGAGING AFFAIR:** A bird's eye view of the participants, whose number only increased as the programme got off

present. While the function gave the officials a first-hand experience of the issues faced by the industry, the recycling business community got an opportunity to interact with officials of concerned departments on a one to one basis. Animated interactions and discussions on the dias and off convinced one that the so called ice was broken between the regulators and the regulated.

In his chief guest address Pradeep Kumar Misra IAS, secretary, ministry of steel, lauded the role played by the metal recycling industry and complimented MRAI for organizing such a programme. "Scrap is a vital input for production of steel in the country. Scrap is the main raw material for electric furnaces which contribute to 50% of steel produced in the country. The recycling industry gives more employment besides it does more to protect environment."

In his welcome speech, Ikbal Nathani, President, MRAI, talked about the industry, its present status and the salient role it is playing for the development of Indian economy. He also briefed the steel secretary and others present about the issues faced by the industry and its various sub sectors.

Besides Mr Misra, some of the other prominent officials graced the occasion included Dr Dalip Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Tarun Jajoria, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Dr (Ms) Saroj, Director, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ms Subhra, Joint Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Dr AS Firoz, Chief Economist, Economic Research Unit, Ministry of Steel. A sizable number of metal recyclers from the region and across the country were also made to the programme.

The deliberations of the day got added



**IN HIS USUAL ELEMENTS:**  
Mr Nathani talked from his heart about his passion

impetuous with Dr AS Firoz, Rohit Shah (vice-president, MRAI), Dhawal Shah (honorary secretary MRAI), Ehsan Haji Amin (treasurer, MRAI) and Zain Nathani providing the right ambience for the interactive sessions that followed. The interactive sessions presided over by Dr (Ms) Saroj and Ms Subhra were undoubtedly the events of the day which saw engaging exchange of ideas and issues concerning the industry.

While the ministry officials could explain the various policies in all their complexity, the trade made it a point to laid bare the contradictions involved in many of them.

The give and take approach was very much seen in the discussions that ensued. This was beautifully summarised by Dr Saroj when she said: "Let us understand one another. You understand us and we will try to understand you. Thus we will be able to find solutions, go forward,"

Making the position of the MoEF with reference to metal recycling, Dr Saroj said MoEF



**Let us understand one another. You understand us and we will try to understand you. Thus we will be able to find solutions, go forward**

*Dr Saroj*



report



**WHEN MINISTRIES MET:**  
Officials from different departments at event

has mandates which are different from departments like DGFT, Customs. "Let us move gradually," she said while agreeing to relook at some of the pressing issues like submitting Form 9, filing of quarterly returns by traders. She was also receptive to ideas like setting up of recycling zones and having a national policy for the industry.

The functioning of pre-shipment inspection agencies came to sharp criticism before Ms Shubra with Mr Nathani wondering, "Who will be responsible if a consignment certified by an inspection agency was found to have something hazardous in it on lading?"

"Subcontracting is not allowed and is illegal," Ms Shubra said, adding the department will blacklist those agencies which are found to be engaged in such activities. She also informed that DGFT was working on developing a guideline for the inspection agencies to seal the loopholes in the current practice.

Deputy secretary of ministry of shipping Mr Jajoria lent his ear to the various issues being faced by the scrap importers including the highhandedness of shipping lines who operate almost monopolistically.

**A PROUD MOMENT:**  
Mr Jajoria (second from left) along with Mr Shah, Sudhir Agarwal (of Inland & Consumers Association), and Mr Nathani



**TALKING ABOUT MRIA:** When Mr Amin talks everyone listens, including Dhawal Shah

The programme was successful in highlighting some of the pressing issues before the authorities. They included:

- Issues related duplication of paper work in filing of 'Form 9' as well as other quarterly/annual returns with state PCBs
- Challenges faced by the trade with regard to the pre-shipment procedures
- Abolishing Customs duty on imported recycling equipment machinery and on radiation detention equipment
- Problems of the trade in relation to various shipping related matters, including monopolistic attitude of shipping lines
- Providing large, reputed metal scrap yards the option to self certify metal scraps being shipped into India
- Holding foreign supplier/shipper and independent inspection agencies liable for punishment if any hazardous scrap was found in the imported metal scrap
- Drafting a national policy on metal recycling
- Study domestic ferrous scrap arisings to better management of the industry
- Setting up of special 'recycling zones' in states forming an inter-ministry delegation comprising of senior ministry representatives to visit scrap yards to better understand processing and handling of ferrous and non-ferrous metal scraps, organizing regional meetings with state pollution control boards on local issues related to metal scrap imports and recycling.

The event was hosted by Inland Importers & Consumers Association. **RN**

