



29<sup>th</sup> October, 2007



## **MESSAGE**

I congratulate the Congressional Task Force on US-India Trade and US-India Business Alliance for your unprecedented initiative on Capitol Hill focused on a US-India partnership on renewable energy innovation. Renewable energy is key component of energy security strategy and energy self-sufficiency. Energy security concerns require diversification of the energy-mix that in turn calls for accelerated harnessing of new and renewable energy resources, which are capable of meeting a broad spectrum of energy requirements.

Indeed, such a discussion critical to the energy security of both the United States and India must not only engage our respective governments, but the business community and the Indian American community who provide great value and insight to this discussion.

I am also delighted with the timing of your conference since both our countries are concerned about energy security and exploring various options to break away from dependence on fossil fuels. India is an emerging economy, with growing energy needs, boundless enthusiasm and an abundance of talent. The US is a mature economy with an emphasis on innovation and the ability to generate capital. We should be able to use these synergies to work together for the same cause.

We welcome the efforts in the United States Congress to support funding for renewable energy projects in India. As Minister for New and Renewable

Energy, I pledge my Ministry's support of US investments in India, both from the US Government and the private sector.

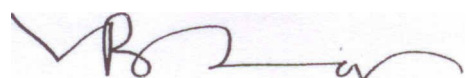
You would be happy to know that in India, over 10,500 MW renewable power generating capacity has been installed till August, 2007 comprising of 7231 MW from wind, 2013 MW from Small Hydro Power and 1,222 MW from bio-power. Besides, solar photovoltaic and solar thermal systems, bio-gas plants, biomass gasifiers etc. have also been deployed for decentralized energy supply for meeting the energy requirements of lighting, cooking and water pumping.

My Ministry looks forward to post-conference dialogue with the US India Business Alliance, the United States Congress, and other agencies of the United States Government to identify private projects in India as well as Indian Government initiatives that can foster a productive partnership between our two countries.

We are cognizant of concerns that some US investors had expressed in the Indian energy sector some years back, which can be ascribed to a variety of reasons. However, foreign investment dynamics has dramatically changed in recent years, and is projected to further accelerate. The Government of India will continue to make every effort to streamline the regulatory process, particularly in the energy sector.

I regret the fact that despite my desire to be at Washington in person to greet every one of you and listen to your views, I am not able to make it this time but I look forward to interact with you in future.

I convey my best wishes for the grand success of the event organized by you and thank for your kind invitation to me.



**(VILAS MUTTEWAR)**