

Reflections on Contemporary Issues in the Electricity Sector Prayas (Energy Group)

Date: 10th March 2017

Venue: Magnolia hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi road, New Delhi

Time: 10.30 – 18.00

Draft agenda:

From	To	Session	Format
1030	1100	Tea and registration	
1100	1230	Insights from “surplus” power in Indian states	A brief presentation by PEG on its recent report “Price of Plenty” will be followed by remarks from two discussants, Mr. Anish De from KPMG and another discussant to be confirmed shortly. This will be followed by open discussion and Q&A.
1230	1330	Lunch	
1330	1500	Consumer choice in Mumbai	A brief presentation by PEG on its recent report “In the name of competition” will be followed by remarks from two discussants, Dr. Geeta Gouri, former Member, Competition Commission of India and Mr. Daljit Singh from Brookings, India. This will be followed by open discussion and Q&A.
1500	1530	Tea break	
1530	1730	Twenty five years of reforms in the electricity sector	PEG will introduce its book “Many sparks but little light”. A panel comprising of Mr. Srinivasa Murthy, former Chair, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, senior advocate in the electricity sector and Dr. Mahesh Rangarajan, Professor of Environmental Studies and History at Ashoka University, will present their thoughts on the book and the further reforms needed in the sector. This would be followed by open discussion and Q&A.
1730	1800	Tea and snacks	

About the publications

The Price of Plenty: Insights from 'surplus' power' in Indian states

With significant capacity addition in the past decade, many states in India have transitioned from having chronic power shortages to having sustained power surplus. The growing volume of surplus capacity in various states is a matter of concern as it implies rising fixed costs payments for the non-requisitioned or backed down power. This scenario may continue for few more years with less than anticipated growth in demand, the increasing addition of renewable capacity and migration of DISCOM consumers due to increased open access and captive options. In this context, the soon to be released report traces the status of surplus power at state level, and capacity addition planning across states, to understand the causes for such surplus capacity and various efforts being made to manage the situation. The report covers analysis from states such as Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

In the Name of Competition: The annals of 'cost-plus competition' in the electricity sector in Mumbai

With low unmetered consumption, near-universal access, and very low distribution losses, Mumbai was considered to be the perfect candidate for introducing choice for consumers and competition amongst suppliers. Today, it is the only major city in India where two electricity distribution companies operate in the same area and compete for consumers, and as of 2015-16, almost one-fifth of suburban Mumbai consumers are exercising this option through changeover. Given the uniqueness of this experiment, the PEG report presents the history, evolution and experience of the parallel licence experiment in Mumbai and the role played by various institutions in shaping the outcomes. It also offers lessons for reforms aimed at furthering competition in retail supply of electricity. The report can be downloaded [here](#).

Many Sparks but Little Light: The Rhetoric and Practice of Electricity Sector Reforms in India

Since 1991, several reforms have been attempted in the electricity sector — indeed, the entire energy sector. Over this period, PEG has keenly followed and participated in the reforms process as a proactive, independent organisation offering constructive critique and suggestions to further public interest. Based on this unique engagement and understanding of the sector, PEG has authored this book, which critically examines many of these reforms and the impacts they have had, to understand if they achieved their expected objectives and if they helped in achieving the desirable socio-environmental outcomes. The in-depth analysis over eight chapters covers thermal, hydropower and renewable generation, electricity distribution, and associated fuel sectors of coal and natural gas. A preview of the book along with the detailed table of contents can be downloaded [here](#).

For further information / queries, please contact:

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