

PRAYAS

Initiatives in Health, Energy,
Learning and Parenthood

प्रयास

आरोग्य, ऊर्जा, शिक्षण आणि पालकत्व
या विषयातील विशेष प्रयत्न

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Date: 30th June 2011

To:

Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister, Government of India

Dear Sir,

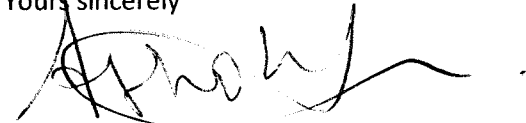
Subject: Performance review of power, environment and coal sectors

We understand that you would be reviewing the performance of the power, environment and coal sectors in the 11th plan in the near future, and issues such as the shortfall in meeting the power generation target, insufficient coal production and go / no-go areas would be discussed. While these issues may be important and need resolution, we believe that this diverts attention away from some more fundamental issues such as universal access to electricity and the siting of power plants.

India's record in providing reliable access to electricity for all is rather poor and about 300 million citizens of our country – roughly similar to the entire population of the US – live without access to this resource which is considered an important input to development. This is in spite of the stated goal of the National Electricity Policy to provide electricity access for all by 2012. We would like to point out that the country could have performed much better in terms of providing universal access to electricity even with the less-than-expected augmentation in generation and transmission capacity. We have highlighted this issue in the attached article (published in the Mint edition of 30th June 2011), and suggested how Government of India can accelerate the process of making universal access to electricity a reality.

We hope the Government of India considers this as its topmost priority in the electricity sector and takes appropriate measures to realize it. Thanking you,

Yours sincerely



Dr. Ashok Sreenivas
Senior Research Fellow, Prayas Energy Group

Cc:

1. Ministers in charge of Ministries of coal, environment and power
2. Senior officials in the Prime Minister's office
3. Senior officials in Ministries of coal, environment and power

Encl:

1. Our article published in "The Mint", dated 30th June 2011