

“National Campaign for Energy efficiency & Conservation: Inputs Seminar”
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Special Address by Shri Bharatisinh Solanki, Hon'ble Minister of State for Power

Energy efficiency has been brought to the centre-stage of the power sector during the last four years. The tremendous potential that energy efficiency has for saving power can bridge the gap between demand and supply. This potential needs to be harnessed and the Ministry of Power is pursuing this goal with all earnestness.

Occasions like this give us an opportunity to come together and take a pledge that we will use energy as efficiently as possible. One of the ways to achieve this is through a dedicated awareness campaign for energy efficiency and conservation. It will create awareness amongst public on the efficacy and virtues of adopting a habit for energy conservation and motivate people to save power by rational use of electricity and will serve as the umbrella campaign for the energy conservation initiatives. Awareness Campaign motivates people to follow simple rules to 'Save Power' and on the other hand connects to them emotionally by generating a sense of 'fear' - that if they don't conserve power today, they will become 'powerless' tomorrow.

Apart from the awareness campaign undertaken by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency some of the other initiatives are detailed below. The Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) was launched by the Government of India on 2007. This code is intended for new commercial buildings and has initially been launched on voluntary basis.

The National Energy labeling programme was launched by the Government of India in 2006. The scheme is currently invoked for 10 equipments/appliances, for example, Air Conditioners, Tube Lights, Refrigerators, Distribution Transformers, Motors, Geysers, Ceiling fans, Colour TV s, Agricultural pump sets and LPG stoves, of which the first 4 are being notified under mandatory labeling.

Lighting accounts for nearly 25% of electricity consumption. The Ministry of Power has launched the Bachat Lamp Yojana. The basic tenet of the scheme is to provide CFL bulbs at cost of incandescent bulbs. The scheme seeks to leverage CDM revenues as a result of energy consumption reduction to reduce the price of the CFLs.

Urbanization requires municipal bodies to provide services such as streetlights, solid waste management, sewage treatment & disposal etc. since these activities consume significant amount of electricity, usually in an inefficient manner. Cost of energy sometimes constitutes more than 50% of the municipality's budget and

implementing efficiency measures could reduce it by at least 25%. Bureau of Energy Efficiency has initiated a programme to cover municipalities by conducting energy audits and preparation of Detailed Project Reports. Energy Service Companies are being encouraged to take up the implementation of the Programme.

To stimulate energy efficiency measures in 25 high-energy consuming small and medium enterprise clusters. BEE in consultation with Designated State Agencies, has initiated diagnostic studies in 25 SME clusters in the country, and developed cluster specific energy efficiency manuals/booklets, and other documents to enhance energy conservation in SMEs. Energy use and technology gap study in 7 clusters is in progress. Thereafter, bankable DPRs will be prepared.

However, the need of the hour is to have a more vigorous and focused national awareness campaign to meet the desired objective of reducing the energy intensity of the country. There is an urgent need to sensitize the regulators, general public, industry etc. about the efficacy need and comparative use of energy efficient technologies so as to strive towards making the Indian economy energy efficient. I hope that this seminar will provide valuable inputs towards a national campaign for energy efficiency and conservation. I congratulate the organizers of the event and wish this event a grand success.

Jai Hind