

**CUTS International, CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC)
& Planning Commission of India**

Regulatory Reforms in India: Focus on Draft Regulatory Reform Bill

- A Roundtable

May 18th 2010, New Delhi

Objective

To further the cause of regulatory reforms in India

Context

For the Indian economy to achieve and sustain an annual growth rate of 10 per cent and impact poverty, the creation of quality infrastructure is critically important. It is estimated that India needs more than a trillion dollars of investment in infrastructure.

It is clear that such a large magnitude of investment cannot come from the public sector alone. The private sector, too, will have to be persuaded to invest. In order for private sector investment to be meaningfully large, two pre-conditions need to be met. First, missing markets for infrastructure services must be identified and created. Second, these markets must be regulated properly so that non-market risks are eliminated or at least minimised through a predictable legal environment.

The regulatory environment in India which has developed over a period of time does not appear to be homogeneous across sectors or states. Thus, an important step towards achieving a homogeneous approach is the drafting of the Regulatory Reform Bill by the Planning Commission of India. The Draft Bill has been placed in the public domain for eliciting views and opinions on the nature and extent of legislative action necessary for reforming the regulation of key infrastructure services.

Against this background, CUTS International and CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition with the support of Planning Commission of India is organising a meeting on implementing regulatory reforms in India with a focus on the draft regulatory bill. The aim is to promote open exchange and sharing of experiences with a view to provide valuable inputs for implementation of regulatory reforms in India.

Key Output

A memorandum will be prepared and submitted to the Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India and to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance for the adoption of the Regulatory Reforms Bill (with suggested changes).

PROGRAMME

- 09:30 – 10:00** **Registration and Tea/Coffee**
- 10:00 – 10:45** **Opening**
Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India
- 10:45 – 12:45** **Roundtable on “The Regulatory Reform Bill 2009”**
This session will provide a critique of the bill and cover relevant issues such as the objective, purpose, key provisions of the bill, etc. Discussions during the roundtable will come out with recommendations and suggestions to further improve the Bill.
- Chair: Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International
Key note: Gajendra Haldea, Advisor to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India
- Panelists***
- Pradip Baijal, Former Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
Shirish Deshpande, Chairman, Mumbai Grahak Panchayat
L Mansingh, Chairperson, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board
E M S Natchiappan, MP, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice
S L Rao, Former Chairman, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
T C A Srinivasa Raghavan, Associate Editor, The Hindu Business Line
S Sundar, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute
- 13:00 onwards** **Lunch**

Date: 18th May 2010, Tuesday

Time: 0930AM to 1300PM

Venue: ‘GULMOHAR’, First Floor, Convention Centre, Gate No 3
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003

**Alphabetical by surname*