

Electricity Amendment Bill 2020: What's in it for consumers?

04th June | 16:00 to 17:30 | Zoom Meeting

Background

The Indian power sector is at the cusp of major transformation. Staring at uncertain times ahead of Covid-19 necessitated lockdown, there is an attempt to introduce legislative reforms in order to address “critical issues weakening the commercial and investment activities in the electricity sector”. The timing as well as intent of these amendments has been put to question by many states who have issued statements against the proposed changes.

With multiple narratives taking shape around these proposed changes, there is a need to assess the amendments from the lens of consumers. While steps like tariff rationalisation, privatisation of distribution utilities and introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for subsidy disbursement are in the pipeline, it is not just the commercial interests of the sector that will be affected but consumers’ interest as well.

CUTS International is organising a webinar in order to dig deeper into the implications of the proposed reforms for different categories of consumers. The objective is to brainstorm and initiate a discourse on the public interest aspects of the draft Electricity Amendment Bill 2020.

Agenda

Time	Session	Speakers/Moderator
4:00 - 4:05	Introductory Remarks	Udai S. Mehta , Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International
4:05 - 4:10	Presentation by CUTS	Sarthak Shukla , Assistant Policy Analyst, CUTS International
4:10 - 4:15	Chair	Geeta Gouri , Former Member, Competition Commission of India
4:15 - 4:25	Special Remarks	Suresh Prabhu, MP , Former Union Power Minister and Author of Electricity Act 2003
4:25 - 4:35	Consumer Perspectives of Proposed Amendments to the Electricity Act	Gireesh Pradhan , Former Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
4:35 - 4:45		Shantanu Dixit , Group Coordinator, Prayas Energy Group
4:45 - 4:55		Ajay Vir Jakhar , Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj
4:55 - 5:05		Ashok Pendse , Consumer Representative, Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission
5:05 - 5:15		Ashwini Swain , Fellow, Centre for Policy and Research
5:15 - 5:25	Open Discussion and Q&A	
5:25 - 5:30	Concluding Remarks	Bipul Chatterjee , Executive Director, CUTS International