

Draft National Energy Policy

The meeting was organized by PAIRVI and Beyond Copenhagen at Indian Internal Centre. There are around 15 participants from the various field were part of the discussion. The participants include Vijaya Pratap, SADED, Somya Dutta, Shakti sustainable energy foundation, Rajendra R. Ravi, R. Sreedhar, Mahesh Pandya, NAPM, Vimal Bhai, Rajesh from Financial Accountability Desk, CACIM.

The discussion was more of an informal discussion on the draft policy. The participants expressed their concern over the various contradictory elements of the draft policy. Some of the highlights of the discussion:-

1. Correct approach in technology choice needs to be taken into account in the draft
2. The draft doesn't analyze the various hidden cost, therefore, diligent analysis of all the cost including ecological, economics, social, and other hidden cost is essential
3. The major issue of concern is that the draft policy states that 56%-67% of energy will come from non-fossil fuel, primarily from nuclear and imported based which raises many questions.
4. No mention of financial accountability, a mechanism in terms of share, investment and who will pay the price of hidden cost etc.(ecological, subsidy etc.)
5. People also raised concern over the irrational methods of creating demands that are mentioned in the draft policy which needs to be checked
6. R. Sreedhar raised his concern over the paradigm shift of nature of the state. "The draft policy is clearly a market driven profit oriented draft policy leaving no hope for the poor," remarks Sreedhar
7. He also expressed his concern over multinationals taking over the public sector enterprises
8. The draft policy doesn't talk anything about the employment needs to be raised since energy is also associated with the issue of employment.
9. It also was suggested to carry out a sensitivity study collectively

These are some of the points raised/responded by the participants. Thereafter, a team of the working group was formed to prepare a critique draft on National energy policy and to submit it to NITI Ayog. Participants were also asked to send their comments, suggestions/feedback on the draft policy on or before 14th July 1st half so that it all the comments, suggestions etc can be incorporated and submitted as a quick response though various groups are asking NITI Ayog for extending the time for comments and inputs.