

Foreword

The economic progress of a country depends to a large extent on the strength of its infrastructure which provides the incentive to growth and development. Prior to India's independence, the infrastructural facilities were geared to meet the objectives of the Raj. After independence, India's planners realised the need for a strong and dependable infrastructural facility for high economic growth and social development.

Energy is one of the important components of the infrastructure. About 60 per cent of the total primary energy supply in the country comes from commercial energy sources like coal, oil, gas, hydro and nuclear. The remaining is met from firewood, animal and agriculture wastes, particularly in rural areas and small towns.

Given the importance of energy and also the reality of wasteful use of energy resources in different sectors of economy, it is imperative that efforts be made to conserve energy. It is estimated that the energy conservation potential is 25 per cent in the industrial sector and 30 per cent in the agriculture sector. An investment of Rs. 5,000 crores in the energy conservation scheme could lead to a saving of about Rs. 8000 crores in capital expenditure on new plants.

The genesis of this book was a consultancy undertaken by the Indian Law Institute at the request of the Advisory Board on Energy, Government of India. This gave an opportunity for the Institute to do extensive research, both doctrinal and empirical, with a view to formulating a Draft Bill on Energy Conservation. The process of drafting of the Bill was preceded by interviews and discussions with industries, private and public sectors, and a workshop in which policy planners, government officials and legal experts participated. The Draft Bill aims at facilitating the attainment of objectives which the state and industries want. The Bill enables, "coordination of activities of the various regulatory and research agencies, creation of an authority or authorities with adequate powers for energy conservation, regulation of standards of efficiency, facilitating management and audit of energy resources, and for planning rational use of energy resources in India." The draft legislation fills the lacunae in the existing laws on energy resources.

Research on the consultancy and Draft Bill was done by a team of Faculty members consisting of Dr. Chhatrapati Singh, Mr. Pradip K. Chaudhary and Ms. Rema Devi. Thanks are due to them for expeditious completion of the study.

New Delhi
September, 1989

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