



# ক্রেতাস্বার্থ সংরক্ষণ সমিতি Consumers' Protection Association

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**Press Release, Agartala, Nov. 28, 2024,**

## **Tripura government has placed a strong emphasis on Clean Energy, says Abhishek Singh, IAS, Secretary, Dept. of Power, Govt. of Tripura**

Tripura government has placed a strong emphasis on clean energy, leading to the initiation of significant steps aimed at promoting solar-based electricity services across the state in the forthcoming years. This move is expected to result in a reduction of power tariffs. The state is committed to implement the *PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana* to increase the share of solar rooftop capacity and empower residential households to generate their own electricity. The media and the civil society organisations should encourage the consumers to adopt solar power, said, **Abhishek Singh, IAS, Secretary, Dept. of Power, Govt. of Tripura.**

He was delivering the Keynote address in the Media workshop and the Project Closing Meeting of the project 'Clean Energy Transition and Electricity Governance' implanted in State by the Consumers Protection Association (CPA), Agartala in partnership with Citizen, Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG), Chennai.

He further spoke about promotion renewable energy, other than solar power, hydro projects, power generation from waste etc. He also said a major policy decision is in the process for setting up solar parks in the states. Saving energy is equally important, and for the same need to focus more on energy efficiency. The plans for making every Govt. building in the State energy efficient is in the process.

Access to electricity is the index of development and standards of living of the citizens and providing better quality of life and creation of economic opportunities for the population.

Mr. Singh congratulated Consumers Protection Association (CPA), for implementing such a project on 'Clean Energy Transition and Electricity Governance' in the state of Tripura. in partnership with Citizen, Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG), Chennai, meant for empowering the civil society and educating the consumers. Many responsibilities of the power department, regulatory commission and the distribution company is shouldered by the civil society. He appreciated the energy audit done in the tea gardens.

**Adv. Amrit Lal Saha**, Founding President of Consumers Protection Association (CPA), chaired the Media Workshop and spoke about the interventions of CPA in Tripura, working in various sectors for the last

almost 37 years, since 1987. He said in the past CPA had worked with various regulators, He said working in the area of electricity governance as a new initiate and with the guidance of the Regulatory Commission (TERC) and the Dept. of Power, CPA achieved good results.

**George Cheriyan**, Working President of Consumer Protection Association (CPA), in his introductory remarks said, electricity has become an essential need of life. CPA implemented the project in Tripura by way of organising seminars, capacity-building workshops and meetings of local electricity forums, to empower consumers with knowledge about the electricity sector. George said, there are several highlights and low lights emerged about Tripura.

Tripura is lagging behind in renewable energy adoption, awareness, and utilization of government schemes despite its potential and special provisions. The state must prioritize promoting rooftop solar, electrifying the un-electrified households, reducing T&D losses, and encouraging energy conservation measures.

Nationally, India source 53% from fossil fuels, 45% from renewables (including hydro), and 2% from nuclear power. In contrast, Tripura's comprises 84% fossil fuels (coal and gas) and only 16% renewables. This is significantly below the national average and far behind states.

Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020, which was amended twice in 2021 & in June 2023, is meant to empower the consumers of electricity and added that these Rules emanate from the conviction that the power systems exist to serve the consumers and the consumers have rights to get the reliable services and quality electricity. However, the same is not notified in the state of Tripura yet.

**B. Kirubakaran**, Researcher, Electricity Governance, CAG, spoke about the significance of launching a project in Tripura. The project implemented in 5 states in India, aims to empower consumers and enable their greater participation in the electricity sector, while also enhancing their understanding of electricity governance. He also presented the outcomes of the Energy Audit done in the tea gardens in Tripura.

**Mina Debarma**, Secretary, Tripura Electricity Regulatory Commission said, framing rules for the Discoms is the primary responsibility of the

commission.

**Sri Nirmal Debnath**, Sr. Manager and **Smti. Arpita Chakraborty**, Manager, represented the DISCOM, the Tripura State Electricity Company Ltd. Spoke about the activities of the distribution companies.

**Smt. Moushumi Chakraborty**, Registrar, State Consumer Commission and **Smt Daliya Saha**, Member, State Consumer Commission spoke about the grievance redressal mechanism available under the Consumer Protection Act to redress the grievances of the electricity consumers.

Around 35 media representatives and representatives of consumer organisations attended the meeting.

**Adv. Amrit Lal Saha**

President, CPA

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