

## **Power to every household is a massive achievement for Bihar Government**

### **Renewable energy can ensure reliability and security to power for all**

**Patna 2nd November 2018:** Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED) congratulated the Bihar Government for electrifying every household in the state well before the timeline and becoming eligible for 15% of the project cost as an incentive under the Saubhagya Scheme. Bihar achieved its target by providing metered electricity connection to every willing household in both urban and rural area of the state. A total of 1.39 crore households have been provided electricity through a mission mode approach in record time. It is a big achievement and a big boost to inclusive development in the state for which the government must get all credit.

Reacting on this development, Mr Ramapati Kumar, Chief Executive officer (CEO) of CEED extended warm congratulation to Honorable Chief Minister of the state, Shri Nitish Kumar and Honorable state Energy Minister, Shri Bijendra Prasad Yadav for bringing light to everyone's homes in Bihar. There cannot be better Diwali gift to the people of Bihar than this. Since the govt. of Bihar now has achieved the 100% electrification, therefore it must work in same mission mode to assure the quality supply of electricity to the people. There might be some teething problem and therefore energy department must work to iron out initial glitches and ensure that this achievement becomes more sustainable and secure. With 100% electrification means increased demands for electricity and more resources required to purchase electricity to maintain quality supply. Bihar Government must work towards 100% renewable energy now to maintain reliability, resilience and security in power sector, Mr Kumar concluded.

Bihar has a peak power demand of over 5100 MW which is majorly met through the purchase of power from the Central Power Generating Stations (around 62% i.e. 3500MW) whereas its own generating capacity only at 964 MW. With the current growth rate and 100% electrification to households, there would be a need to double this capacity which would, in turn, need a massive investment to procure expensive energy as well as to maintain the distribution infrastructure. The burden on Govt. exchequer can be reduced if we shift to cheaper and cleaner form of electricity such as renewable energy. This additional burden can be met through investing in renewable energy sector vide installation of rooftop solar, renewable energy based mini-grids, large-scale solar power plants and solarization of agriculture and irrigation pumps.

Mr Abhishek Pratap, Director- Programs of CEED emphasized on the need to provide quality and reliable power which can happen through reform in power sector, especially on decentralized generation and supply at the local level to cut down on transmission and distribution losses while maintaining sustainable supply of electricity to household both in rural and urban areas. It will also help in cutting

down massively on the cost of supply incurred by DISCOMs. Bihar has massive renewable energy potential, particularly on solar energy. It needs to harness this potential in a big way through innovative financing mechanism so that growth solar energy can be realized in the residential, commercial and industrial segment and help in meeting aspiration demand of electricity for the state,” he concluded.

**For more information, please contact:**

1. Faiyaz Iqbal, +91 8084814723, [fiqbal@ceedindia.org](mailto:fiqbal@ceedindia.org)
2. Ashwani Ashok, +91 7856896950, [ashwani@ceedindia.org](mailto:ashwani@ceedindia.org)