



CEED LAUNCHED 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY (RE) CAMPAIGN FOR GROWING BIHAR CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS TO MOBILISE 100000 SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

Patna, July 31, 2015, Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED) along with local Civil Society Groups launched a 100% RE Bihar campaign with focus on decentralised renewable energy (DRE) project for growing Bihar. The Civil society groups urged political parties to bring transformational change to energy sector by making a commitment for inclusion of Renewable energy to make Bihar self sufficient. The civil society network will mobilise the direct support of 100000 people, to support inclusion of renewable energy in the manifesto of political parties in upcoming state Assembly election in 2015.

Bihar power situation has improved over the years but it is still reeling under the power deficit to provide electricity for all. As of 2015, Bihar has the lowest per capita consumption of electricity in the country at 144 kWh against a national average of 917 kWh. Its time for Bihar to look for an alternative pathway to provide people, access to electricity based on clean energy.

The current leadership both at centre and state has demonstrated strong commitment towards the development of renewable energy and now the time has come to implement it in letter and spirit, Said Ramapati Kumar, CEO of CEED. Bihar must think in the direction of adopting and practicing policy and program to become 100% renewable energy in the near future. It is surely the politicians who can deliver 'energy now' that will hold sway with voters in coming election, added Mr. Kumar.

Tackling the access-to-energy challenge will require electrification models that are flexible enough to match local needs and which are easily scalable. Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) solutions –as standalone systems are a promising alternative to electrify un-electrified households and provide reliable energy in a fast, easy and reliable way.

While addressing the media, Mr. Babul Prasad on behalf of civil society network urged the political parties to chart out a new development pathway for energy via decentralised renewable energy infrastructure to provide energy access to the rural population in an equitable and sustainable manner. Certain sectors such as Rural electrification, Agriculture and solar roof top program in urban areas could be the first initiative to take Bihar towards 100% RE. Bihar can see the new high of development in energy sector and renewable energy has the potential to fuel that change, said Mr. Prasad.

A growing and strong Bihar should take leadership and think in the direction of increasing share of renewable portfolio in the energy mix. In the last couple of years, the cost of grid connected solar PV power has come down drastically, for example, a recent bid by first solar for setting-up a 40 MW solar PV plant in Andhra Pradesh was around INR 5.25/ kWh which is below the price of setting-up a new coal fired power plants using imported coal (Approx. INR 5.4-5.7/ kWh). The new system will not only bring massive investment but would also create jobs for local people.

Ms. Ankita Jyoti, Program Manager of CEED urged political parties to chart out a decentralised model of development to provide electricity access to people and work towards tangible benefits in next five years. The civil society network demanded that political class should bring a strong policy to include DRE and make commitment to work towards replicating 1000 micro or mini grids, installing 100,000 solar pumps sets and lighting 50,000 households through solar roof top program in urban areas.

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