

The Ministry of Power needs to reduce its interference in State electricity matters to ensure affordable power supply. Analyse.

The recent amendment in Electricity Act 2000 gave powers to Ministry of Power to frame rules and regulation to perform duties of State Electricity Regulatory Commission, distribution, connection, reliability, load supply etc; This seems to be an indulge over the autonomy of SERC, where the Power — is under Concurrent list of Schedule 7 of Indian Constitution.

Section 176 of Electricity Act 2003:

1. Grant power to Central Government to curb its interference on SERC in its regulation and duties
2. In order to sort out the state issues on renewable energy loading, load-shedding, round the clock (RTC) power etc;
- 3) (e.g) Prosumers Ministry of Power told SERC to help consumers in state in setting up renewable energy producing equipment

and to sell excess to power grid → seen as infringement in autonomy of SERC.

Necessary autonomy for SERC:

1. For healthy competition among SERC.
2. No interference by the Ministry is a necessity to harms profit in loss making distributions.
3. (e.g) Ministry of Power ⇒ Units 150 free for state start-ups Manufacturing for 2 years → there is loss for SERC.

Renewable energy grid:

1. Many state has loss making Regulatory Commission.
2. Thus renewable energy creation and supply in grid will be an alternation to cope up loss.
3. But Prosumers by Ministry of Power decides the allocation, rather not giving power to SERC is failure in letter and spirit.

Autonomy in International Co-operation:

1. Ministry of Power - 450GW 2030 Renewable Energy.
2. But SERC needs International Co-operation with Japan, S. Korea, Israel to achieve.
3. Interference by Ministry fails MOU achievement.

Future Prospects:

1. Independent autonomy like Telecommunication coal sector should be given.
2. Forum for co-operation with internationals should be allowed.