

Analysis and compilation of tariff orders for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

[Sponsor: Ministry of Power]

Executive summary

TERI, in November 2006, was asked to undertake a study of national as well as international experience on Code of Ethics for Regulatory Commission; seek views from regulators in India (particularly from the electricity sector) through questionnaire survey and consultation meetings on the need and contents of the Code of Ethics; and to draft the Code of Ethics.

TERI accordingly conducted a literature review and studied the Code of Ethics followed by various infrastructure regulators in the USA, UK, Ireland, and New South Wales. Experience was also drawn from the code of ethics followed by the judicial authorities in India. It was seen that there were some common principles, which almost all regulators covered in the Code of Ethics.

A questionnaire-based survey on the need and important principles of a Code of Ethics was undertaken and responses were sought from all the Electricity Regulatory Commissions in India. Thereafter, the findings were placed before the Forum of Regulators on 1 March 2007 at Raipur. Based on a consultation process, the Code of Ethics for electricity regulators was prepared. This Code of Ethics included the following areas.

- Role of the Commission Chairman
- Responsibilities of individual commission members
- Guidelines on acceptance of gifts
- Handling conflict of interest
- Personal liability of commission members
- Delegation
- Openness and responsiveness
- Interaction with media
- Political activity
- Annual reports and accounts