

## **Orientation courses on solar charging stations for senior officials of the LWE-affected districts**

### **Executive summary**

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On the initiative of the Planning Commission, Government of India, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, approached The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for organising orientation workshops on solar charging stations for senior officials of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts. The primary objective of the consultative workshops was to enable participants to understand the 'fee-for-service model', its business and operational aspects, direct and indirect benefits vis-à-vis economic upliftment of the beneficiary community.

The MNRE has launched a scheme for providing solar lantern charging stations in 6000 villages spread over 60 LWE-affected districts of nine states, in order to address the basic lighting needs of the inhabitants of the said areas. The scheme is to be implemented through the respective District Collectors under the aegis of the concerned state nodal agencies. Based on the experience of TERI in implementing solar charging stations, under its LaBL initiative, the MNRE engaged TERI for organising five one-day consultative workshops on solar charging stations for senior officials of the LWE-affected districts and the said workshops were to be conducted in five different state capitals.

The five workshops were accordingly conducted over a period of 2 months: in Patna, for the participants of Bihar (07 districts), West Bengal (01 district) and Uttar Pradesh (01 district); in Raipur, for the participants of Chattisgarh (10 districts); in Bhopal, for the participants of Madhya Pradesh (08 districts), Maharashtra (02 districts) and Andhra Pradesh (02 districts); in Bhubaneswar, for the participants of Orissa (15 districts); and the last one in Ranchi for the participants of Jharkhand (14 districts).

The following methodology was adopted for conducting successful and result-oriented workshops:

- The respective state nodal agencies (SNAs) were involved for coordination.
- The content of the workshops was made more discussion oriented and interactive.
- The course material for the workshop was analytically prepared in keeping with TERI's experience, for the participants to understand the MNRE scheme and its implementation in terms of the Ministry's guidelines.

Over 100 officials attended the workshops and it is expected that they shall facilitate the implementation of the MNRE's LWE scheme. Earlier also, during 2011 October-November, in the same sequel, TERI had conducted six Exposure cum Sensitisation visits (to solar charging stations installed by TERI) for the middle-level officials of the LWE-affected districts.

