



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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Date – 11 August 2022

Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022

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Why in the news?

1. Union power minister **R.K. Singh** tabled the Electricity Amendment Bill 2022 ignoring the opposition of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha.
2. **Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal** objected to the proposed bill, as it can target the provision of free electricity in his state of Delhi.
3. Farmers and power sector employees (Eg. Telangana power employees) also protested against the bill.

Why this protest???

| PROVISIONS | PROTEST |
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| The Bill provides for the constitution of the Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority (ECEA). The ECEA will have | The proposed common selection committee will have chief secretaries of two states as |

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| <p>sole authority to adjudicate upon specified contract-related disputes in the electricity sector. A common selection committee will be constituted to select the chairperson and members of the Appellate Tribunal (APTEL), the central and state regulatory commissions (CERC, SERCs), and ECEA</p> | <p>members, by rotation. A concerned state may not have a representative in the committee when recommending appointments to its SERC. This can go against the federal structure.</p> |
| <p>Provisions vis-à-vis graded revision in tariff over a year besides mandatory fixing of maximum ceiling and minimum tariff by the appropriate commission.</p> | <p>Free power for farmers and <u>Below Poverty Line</u> population will go away eventually.</p> |
| <p>Only government discoms or distribution companies will have universal power supply obligations.</p> | <p>Hence it is likely that private licensees will prefer to supply the electricity in profit-making areas – to industrial and commercial consumers Therefore, profit-making areas will be snatched from government discoms and they will become loss-making companies</p> |
| <p>Converting the rate of punishment from imprisonment or fine to fine.</p> | <p>This will weaken the hold of the government on the culprits.</p> |
| <p>The amendment talks about the participation of private players along with state-authorized/owned power distribution companies for electricity distribution, given they get the license. It also says that distribution licensees can use the distribution systems of other licensees</p> | <p>This would eventually lead to the privatization of the power sector and hence the power sector employees are protesting.</p> |

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| in the area of supply through a system of non-discriminatory open access on payment of wheeling charges. | |
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What is the government's stand?

- This would eventually phase out free power political promises and make energy more equitable(PM Modi called this as the “**Revri Culture**”)
- No provision in the bill reduces the power of the state to regulate the power distribution sector , power or subsidy.
- The push for RPO(Renewable Purchase obligation) which is mentioned in the bill will fulfill India's power demand which is going to double in the next 8 years.
- It is considered to be done to end the “license raaj”.

Way forward.

The bill is currently sent to the standing committee in order to provide the scope of accommodation to the reservations of the protestors. Though the intent of the government of the day is to reform the debt laden power sector but any step in this direction must involve the opinions of all the stakeholders. This would uphold the spirit of democracy and participation in true letter and spirit.

Reference : PRS

Samarth singh

One District One Product Scheme

One District One Product Initiative

Why in News: The Central Government has initiated the One District One Product (ODOP) in different States/UTs of the country. ODOP is seen as a transformational step towards realizing the true potential of a district, fueling economic growth, generating employment and rural entrepreneurship, taking us to the goal of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

ODOP initiative is operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative of the DGFT, Department of Commerce, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder.

Aim: The ODOP Initiative is aimed at fostering balanced regional development across all districts of the country enabling holistic socio-economic growth across all regions. The objective is to convert each District of the country into a manufacturing and Export Hub by identifying products with export potential in the District. Institutional mechanisms in the form of State Export Promotion Committees (SEPCs) and District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs) have been constituted in 36 States/UTs to provide support for export promotion and address the bottlenecks for export growth in the districts.

Districts' Export Action Plans are prepared for identified products and services for overseas markets, which includes specific actions required to support local exporters /manufacturers in producing/manufacturing identified products in adequate quantity and with the requisite quality, for reaching potential buyers.

These plans also include identifying and addressing challenges for exports of such identified products/services, improving supply chains, market accessibility and handholding for increasing exports. So far, in about 557 districts, export plans have been prepared and in about 218 have been adopted by DEPCs.

Products have been identified under ODOP and DEH across each district in the country. The range of the chosen products covers multiple sectors, Ministries and Departments, including products of farmers, weavers, artisans, other producers and sellers of districts.

ODOP/DEH initiatives contribute to the goal of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, Vocal for local and Make in India, by providing opportunities for employment, through significantly increasing the manufacturing and exports of identified products.

It was launched in January 2018, by the Uttar Pradesh Government, and due to its success, was later adopted by the Central Government.

Background: The 'One District, One Product (ODOP) was launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in 2018, to help districts reach their full potential, foster economic and socio-cultural growth, and create employment opportunities, especially in rural areas.

The initiative is carried out with the 'Districts as Exports Hub' initiative by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce.

It is a centrally sponsored scheme to be shared by **the central government and states in 60:40 contributions.**

The ODOP initiative is aimed at manifesting the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to foster balanced regional development across all districts of the country.

The idea is to select, brand, and promote One Product from each District of the country

- For enabling holistic socioeconomic growth across all regions
- To attract investment in the District to boost manufacturing and exports
- To generate employment in the District
- To provide an ecosystem for Innovation/ use of Technology at the District level to make them competitive with domestic as well as international market

Advantages of the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative

- Numerous micro-enterprises will benefit through access to information, better exposure to the market, and formalization.
- It will enable them to formalize, grow and become competitive in national and global space.
- The project is likely to generate valuable skilled and semi-skilled jobs.
- The scheme envisages increased access to credit by existing micro food processing entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurs in the **Aspirational Districts**.
- There will be better integration with organized markets, boosting the artisans and local vendors.
- Increased access to common services like sorting, grading, processing, packaging, storage, etc. will be an added advantage.

This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha

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