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# KEY PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS

## PART - 2



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# EVALUATION OF WIND ENERGY IN INDIA

## Observations:

- Only a **fraction of the country's wind potential** has been **tapped**. The **commercially exploitable potential** of wind energy in India is estimated to be **more than 200 gigawatt (GW)**.
- As of **May 2022**, the **total installed capacity** of wind power was **41 GW**, i.e., about 20% of the commercially exploitable potential.
- **Solar energy has been prioritized over wind energy**, despite **import dependence in the solar sector**. From March 2014 to May 2022, the installed capacity of wind power has increased by 93% as compared to a 2064% increase in solar power.
- **Most of the wind energy potential of India** is available in **eight states** which include **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Wind and solar energy** are **complementary to each other** as solar power is harnessed during the day and wind power projects are productive during the night.
- The Committee observed that **only four states - Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu** have fulfilled the **RPO target of 19%** as per the National RPO trajectory for 2020-21.
- **Offshore wind energy** (wind energy projects in water bodies) potential was estimated to be about 70 GW off the coast of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. However, no project has been established in these states.

## Note:

- The **National Wind Solar Hybrid Policy, 2018** provides for promoting large **grid-connected wind-solar energy projects**. Wind-solar hybrid projects with a capacity of 4,250 megawatt (MW) have been awarded, of which 201 MW have been commissioned as of February 2022.

## Recommendations:

- **Exploring offshore wind potential** in different coastal areas of India.
- **Ensuring RPO compliance** by all states and enforcing penalties against defaulting entities.
- **Promoting setting up of wind-solar hybrid projects** to harness the installable potential of more than 50 GW.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Tariff Policy, 2016</b> requires discoms to purchase a certain percentage of electricity from renewable energy (RE) sources. A discom can meet the RPO target by setting up its own RE plant, purchasing power from any RE generator, or purchasing renewable energy certificates.</li><li>• Reasons for <b>slow capacity addition</b> include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Shift in tariff system</b> from <b>feed-in-tariff</b> (guaranteed above market price for producers) to <b>tariff determination by competitive bidding</b>.</li><li>➤ <b>Aggressive bidding</b> by developers.</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Replacing old and less efficient turbines</b> with advanced turbines.</li><li>• <b>Formulating a policy for repowering of old turbines</b> and issuing guidelines for recycling old turbines.</li><li>• <b>Provisions for a heavy penalty on developers</b> backing out unilaterally and blacklisting persistent defaulters.</li></ul>
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# DEVELOPMENT OF ALUMINUM AND COPPER INDUSTRIES

## Observations:

- Aluminum is the second largest metal market in the world after iron and steel. The Indian primary aluminum (aluminum produced directly from mined ore) market consists of three major producers: **National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)**, **Hindalco Industries**, and **Vedanta Limited**.
- **NALCO is the only public sector enterprise producing bauxite and primary aluminum in India.**
- **Per capita consumption of aluminum was 2.9 kg in 2018-19** as compared to a **global average of 11 kg.**
- There is an **urgent need for aluminum manufacturing companies to identify new aluminum value added products** of mass consumption to achieve high per capita aluminum usage.
- **Aluminum imports have remained consistently high**, forming 60% of the total domestic consumption in 2020-21.
- **3,896 million tonnes of bauxite resources 3,240 million tonnes (83%)** are yet to be fully explored.
- **India has very limited known reserves of exploitable copper ore** and currently its copper share of **world's reserve is only 0.31%.**
- Global demand for products such as **electric vehicles, electrical equipment, and transportation equipment goes up**, the demand of copper will also increase.
- **Per capita consumption of copper** in the country is expected to increase from the current level of **0.6 kg to 1 kg** in the coming years.

### Note:

- **Aluminum sector has not been able to achieve its desired level of production** with respect to its installed capacity.
- **Aluminum is a recyclable and environment friendly metal** having its use in several sectors such as transport, power, and construction.

### Recommendations:

- The concerned Ministry should try to **improve the physical performance of the sector** thereby allowing India to be self-reliant for aluminum.
- **Coordinate and collaborate with Ministries of Railways, Defence, Transport, Power, and Civil Aviation**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Granting of mining lease, environmental clearances, land acquisition, and forest clearances</b> are the major constraints in development of new mines.</li></ul>	<p>to identify and explore areas where aluminum can replace other metals without compromising quality, strength, and cost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Enhance the custom duty</b> on imported aluminum to discourage imports.</li><li>• <b>Concrete steps to bring the unproven bauxite reserves</b> in different states under proven and probable category.</li><li>• <b>Prepare a holistic plan to ensure a proportionate increase in production</b> of copper ore on an yearly basis in order to meet the targets.</li><li>• <b>Pursue with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce</b> to give more incentives to domestic copper industries in order to increase production.</li><li>• Exploit more copper deposits.</li></ul>
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## AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINES AND MEDICINAL DEVICES

### Observations:

- **Listing of drugs for COVID-19 management** and prescribing them under the National Treatment Protocol is done by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The DoP (Department of Pharmaceuticals) has **no role in framing the National Treatment Protocol**.
- **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes the ceiling price of scheduled medicines** specified under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO).
- **Price range of oxygen concentrators** is still on the higher side.
- **Most COVID-19 essential medicines and medicinal devices** were reduced to 5% in June 2021.
- **Import of certain raw materials** (excipients) for drugs is a **major constraint for availability of medicines**. For instance, finished formulations of the drug Tocilizumab are not manufactured in India.

### Note:

- **Central Drugs Control Organisation (CDSCO) updates the MoHFW about the production capacity and availability** of the drugs.
- Based on **inputs from MoHFW from time to time**, the DoP **augments the production and supply of the essential drugs** required for management of COVID-19.
- All manufacturers of scheduled medicines have to sell their **products within the ceiling price fixed** by the NPPA.
- **Manufacturers of non-scheduled formulations** may be **allowed to fix their own retail selling prices**

### Recommendations:

- **DoP should be involved in determining the National Treatment Protocol**, to initiate the coordination between DoP and MoHFW in the planning stage.
- **Conducting a daily review of medicines and medical devices** required by all states or union territories by DoP and MoHFW.
- DoP and NPPA should consider **capping the prices of various types of oxygen concentrators** so as to make them affordable.
- DoP and NPPA should **frame a new price regime for COVID-19 specific medicines** and medical devices, where no annual increase in prices may be

(provided that the price increase of such formulations is not more than 10% during the preceding 12 months).

allowed till the pandemic is entirely over in the country. Further, the distinction between scheduled and non-scheduled drugs may be done away with.

- DoP and MoHFW should **submit a proposal to the GST Council to exempt all COVID-19 essential medicines** and medical devices from the purview of GST.
- **Medical devices such as ventilators and concentrators** should be covered under National List of Essential Medicines for effective price control.
- **DoP should initiate steps** to explore the possibilities of **manufacturing COVID-19 essential drugs** by the PSUs under it.
- **Organize nationwide online training programmes** for all registered medical practitioners on the rational use of Remdesivir and other COVID-19 drugs included in the protocol.

## EVALUATION OF PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA

### Observations:

- **Several states** such as **Bihar** and **West Bengal** have **withdrawn from the scheme**, while **Punjab** **never implemented it**. It attributed this to financial constraints and low claim ratios during the normal seasons.
- **Farmers who have taken loans may opt out of the scheme** by submitting a declaration form. However, due to lack of awareness, several farmers do not submit the requisite form and face mandatory deduction of premium from their bank accounts.
- **Delays in settlement of insurance claims** as one of the biggest challenges in implementation of the scheme.
- **Insurance companies are required to have a functioning office in each tehsil**. However, they are non-existent in several districts.
- **Delays in taking action against defaulting insurance companies** have been observed can be attributed to procedural complication.
- **Only 15 states and union territories have notified Grievance Redressal Committees** at both the state and district level, as mandated under the scheme.
- **Yield-related disputes and delayed transmission of yield data** are a major reason for delays in settlement of claims. It noted that this data is provided by state governments based on crop cutting experiments which are highly time consuming and labor intensive.
- **Scheme does not mandate insurance companies** to spend the share of their profits going towards CSR in the districts from where profits are earned.

### Recommendations:

- **Prohibit states which delay the release of subsidies** (beyond specified timeline) from participating in the scheme
- **Mandate state governments to bear the entire subsidy for areas/ crops** which have a higher premium rate than the specified rates.
- **Enacting measures to increase participation by states.**
- Amending the provision to require such farmers (who have taken a loan) and want to avail the scheme to opt in separately.

- **Address issues related to delay in settlement of claims** using technology and the coordination of all institutional mechanisms.
- **Implement a timeline for settlement of claims by insurance companies.** In cases where delays are caused by failure of the state governments to pay subsidy, return the premium with interest to farmers within a fixed time frame.
- The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to nominate local public representatives (including Members of Parliament) in the district level Committees to ensure accountability.
- **Adoption of smart sampling techniques** by all states using technological interventions such as satellite data or use of drones.

## ETHICAL STANDARDS IN MEDIA COVERAGE

### Observations:

- PCI (**Press Council of India**) does **not have the power to enforce compliance as advisories issued** by it are **not enforceable** in a Court of Law.
- On **violation of ethical standards by print media**, the PCI **directs newspapers to issue directions** to publish the version of the complainant. In some cases, the papers are censured. In such cases, these decisions are forwarded to the **Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC)** and concerned state governments.
- Newspapers continue to violate the ethical standards, till action is taken by the BOC. Further, it noted that BOC takes almost a year to come out with their orders.
- The **Cable Network Rules, 2014 prohibits those programmes** from being carried in the cable service which promote '**anti national attitudes**'. However, the term '**anti-national attitudes**' has not been defined.
- **Television audience measurement mechanism** is done in the form of **TRP** (metric used to evaluate viewership through a communication device, such as a television set).
  - ▶ It records the **time and the programme that a viewer watches on a particular day**.
  - ▶ In 2015, **Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)** was granted **registration as a television rating agency** by the Ministry for a period of 10 years.
  - ▶ It is a **self-regulated, not-for-profit body** and covers 44,000 households across India.
  - ▶ The Committee noted that there have been **recent cases of manipulation of TRPs** by some television channels by rigging the devices used by BARC. Further, it observed that the current TRP system is heavily biased towards urban areas.
  - ▶ There have been **recent cases of manipulation of TRPs** by some television channels by rigging the devices used by BARC.
  - ▶ Current TRP system is heavily biased towards urban areas.
- There is **no grievance redressal mechanism** for an individual to register a complaint for redressal of his grievance, if something is written against him.

### Recommendations:

- **Restructure the PCI, and establish a media council to cover all types of media** (print, electronic and digital). The council shall have statutory powers to enforce its orders wherever required. Further, the Committee recommended increasing the membership of PCI (currently it consists of **20 members**).
- The **concerned ministry should prescribe a certain time period for BOC** to act on the decisions of the PCI.
- **'Anti national attitude'** should be properly defined to remove any ambiguity.
- **Related to TRP:**
  - **Creating a more transparent system for measuring TRPs**
  - **Changing the system of measurement by giving equal weightage** to rural and semi-urban areas through increment in the sample size
  - **Studying global practices** adopted for TRP.
- **Related to Grievance Redressal:**
  - **Including grievance redressal mechanisms at all levels** (i.e. , district, state, and center)
  - **Providing in-house grievance redressal mechanisms** in all forms of media
  - **Constituting a media helpline number** to maintain the standards of ethics in media.

# INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

## Observations:

- India follows the **principle of dualism** (that is, international law is not directly applicable domestically, and must be implemented through a law by Parliament).
- **Extradition is a process for surrender**, upon request, of a person who is alleged to have committed an offense and is wanted for trial in one country, and is found residing in another.
  - ▶ **India has signed extradition treaties with 50 countries** and extradition arrangements with 11 countries.
  - ▶ There are **delays in extraditing offenders who take refuge in countries** with which India already has an extradition treaty or arrangement.
  - ▶ **Offenders take advantage of the absence of such treaties** with certain countries where they can get citizenship or residency through investment.
- An **individual seeking international protection from persecution** is called an asylum seeker. A country may grant refugee status to an asylum seeker.
  - ▶ **Existing domestic laws** that regulate the entry, stay and exit of foreign nationals in normal circumstances are **inadequate to deal with refugees**.
  - ▶ **India is not a signatory to the United Nations' 1951 Convention on the status of refugees** and the 1967 Protocol amending it.
  - ▶ The Committee noted that India believes in the **concept of shared responsibility** of all countries in refugee crises, however, the Convention and the Protocol do not contain this concept.

## Recommendations:

- The Ministry of External Affairs should coordinate with the concerned Ministries regarding matters where there is a vacuum in domestic law.
- Set up a Working Group in close coordination with concerned ministries to strengthen India's capacity and expertise in International Law.
- Identify such countries and sign extradition treaties with them on priority.
- Institute a task force to identify the reasons and suggest solutions for the issue of pendency of such requests

- Enter into more MLATs (Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties) with other countries on a priority basis.
- Make a strong case for reviewing these instruments by advocating India's stand on shared responsibility.
- The Ministry of External Affairs should make a strong case for reviewing these instruments (United Nations' 1951 Convention on the status of refugees and the 1967 Protocol) by advocating India's stand on shared responsibility.
- **Related to cyber security norms:**
  - ▶ Strengthen domestic laws on cyber security in line with international norms
  - ▶ Focus on preventing and pre-empting cyber attacks
  - ▶ Leverage our algorithm development capabilities to achieve data localisation.