

# GREENPEACE

The Secretary (Power)  
Ministry of Power,  
Shram Shakti Bhavan,  
New Delhi-110 011

28<sup>th</sup> August 2007

**Sub: Greenpeace proposal for progressive energy efficiency thresholds for lighting applications with phase out of incandescent light bulb as the first step**

Dear Sir,

This is with reference to the letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 2007 from the Ministry of power (signed by the Director) which was sent in response to the Greenpeace letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007 concerning efficiency in the lighting sector, as detailed in the subject above.

To begin with, Greenpeace is rather disappointed that the Power Ministry considers the banning of the incandescent light bulb in India pre-mature while being fully aware that climate change is poised to be the biggest threat to the planet. Left unchecked, climate change is bound to affect millions of people, disrupting their health and habitation. India has already been facing the impacts of rising temperatures, and with little financial capacity to adapt, climate change is bound to affect India severely. Furthermore, it has also been acknowledged that we have less than ten years to act to avoid dangerous irreversible impacts of climate change.

Given this scenario, it is imperative to identify means by which we can quickly reduce substantial amounts of carbon dioxide, and implement measures to do so. One measure is large scale implementation of energy efficiency across all sectors, through introduction of mandatory efficiency threshold limits and phase out of inefficient applications. However, one of the easiest and quickest (to yield results) is the introduction of energy efficiency in the lighting sector.

This has the potential to reduce our electricity consumption by fifty percent. Replacing all incandescent bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Lamps alone can save over 12000 MW of electricity and reduce CO2 emissions by 55 Million tonnes (which is 4% of our current total Co2 emissions)

However this reduction necessitates a total phase out of inefficient lighting in India starting with the phase out of the incandescent light bulb by 2010 and the introduction of progressive efficiency threshold limits for all lighting appliances (such as all lighting applications below 35 lumens per watt be phased out by 2012 and those below 55 lumens per watt be phased out by 2015).

Greenpeace acknowledges that one of the largest hurdles currently is the large price difference between the incandescent light bulb and the CFL. However, this problem can be tackled in various ways, such as introducing leasing schemes and supplying CFLs free of cost to those

below the poverty line. However these schemes can be effective only when incandescent light bulbs are phased out. This has already been clearly outlined in our "Model Law" which was submitted to your office along with the original letter in March 2007.

Though the CFL Bachat Yojana has the potential to create a favourable market for CFLs the fact that it does not provide targets for the reduction of incandescent light bulbs in circulation and consequently CO2 reduction is a cause for concern. Further, it is unclear whether the scheme will promote the setting of progressive energy efficiency thresholds for lighting applications (like the one detailed in an earlier paragraph of this letter)

Greenpeace was hopeful that the Indian government would take a definitive lead in fighting climate change. However, we find that other countries are taking the lead. The most recent example is that of Ghana, which has announced the introduction of legislation in Parliament to phase out incandescent bulbs very soon. If a poor country like Ghana can take the lead in ushering in energy efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions, why should a rapidly developing economy like ours trail behind?

We are asking the Government to initiate a legislative process to implement progressive efficiency thresholds in the lighting application sector and phase out the incandescent light bulb no later than the year 2010.

We look forward to such an initiation by your Ministry at the earliest.

Yours Sincerely,

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CC:

- (1) Minister for Power, Government of India
- (2) Director, Ministry of Power, Government of India
- (3) Minister for Environment and Forest, Government of India
- (4) Environment Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India
- (5) The Prime Minister's Office
- (6) Dr. R Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister and Member, Climate Task Force
- (7) Dr. R. K. Pachauri, Chairman, Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change and Member, PM's Task Force on Climate Change