

Multiple Choice Questions on

Energy



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FOREWORD

Energy issues came to the fore as a part of public policy almost 40 years ago when oil prices quadrupled almost instantaneously in the wake of the oil embargo imposed by certain members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on supply of oil to specific countries. Prior to that, the price of oil globally had remained relatively low and, at the same time, electricity prices also generally continued to decline as a result of economies of scale and larger and more efficient power plants for generating electricity. In the 1970s and 1980s, however, energy which had been taken for granted as a factor of production in all goods and services was seen as a commodity likely to grow increasingly scarce. It would, therefore, need to be used more efficiently while the world also pursued the possibility of substitutes to fossil fuels. For a variety of reasons, oil prices crashed in 1985 and remained relatively low till just a few years ago.

There is now a need to change mindsets and ensure the development of new technologies, which would not only enable more efficient use of energy but also greater use of renewable sources that exist in abundance in several parts of the world. Government policies are determined largely by public preferences and priorities, particularly in democratic societies. Hence, the pursuit of renewable energy choices would require large-scale awareness on their potential and promise by which the public at large would be able to move governments, businesses, and other stakeholders towards a renewable energy revolution.

It is in this context that these multiple choice questions on energy are an extremely effective and simple way of informing readers of the excitement and enormous potential associated with renewable sources of energy. These, of course, have to be seen within the larger context of supply and use of all forms of energy. What is critically important is for publications of this nature to be read by people at all levels and in all parts of this country, so that we could bring about a true revolution in energy supply, making it possible for India to emerge as an example to the rest of the world and as a society driven by a sustainable and secure energy future.



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