Ajay Shankar, is a Distinguished Fellow at TERI and has had rich and varied experience in public service for over forty years. He has served in the Government of India in policy making positions in the areas of industry and energy. He worked for about a decade in the Power Ministry and played a key role in piloting the reform legislation, the Electricity Act 2003 and the major programme for completing the universalization of electricity access launched in 2005 under which over a 100,000 villages have since been electrified. He was associated with the preparation of the water and environment sector plants for the 11th plan in the Planning Commission.