

ELAMARAM KAREEM

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

LEADER

CPI(M) Group in Rajya Sabha



सत्यमेव जयते

Member :

- Standing Committee on Labour
- Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises

03-01-2023

Dear Shri. Eknath Shinde ji,

I am writing this letter to request your urgent intervention to safeguard the electricity sector in the State of Maharashtra. As you are aware that the united Forum of all 34 organizations representing more than 86,000 Electricity Employees and Engineers of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited, and Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited are resorting to 72 hours' token Strike from 4th January 2023 against the Government's move to introduce Adani Group in distribution service of Navi Mumbai's Bhandup Circle. Adani Electricity Navi Mumbai Limited, a 100% subsidiary of Adani Transmission Limited, has applied to Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) for a parallel power distribution license for Mulund, Bhandup, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Panvel, Kharghar, Taloja and Uran – the most electricity revenue generating regions of the entire State. It is a matter of serious concern that the MERC may grant parallel licenses to private players like Adani Group to amass profit from these areas taking advantage of the existing distribution network of the State DISCOM.

It has also been learnt that Torrent Power has applied for parallel licenses at Kalyan, Vasai, Pune, Nagpur, Pimpri Chinchwad Ministry Corporation and also a big Chakan MIDC near Pune. Also, the Tata Power has submitted expression of interest to Government of Maharashtra for taking over the electricity distribution of Aurangabad, Jalana on PPP basis. This is a very alarming situation for power sector of Maharashtra as about 50% of the total revenue is coming from these areas in MSEDCL. If these areas are handed over to private companies, then MSEDCL will become totally financially bankrupt and will have no money even to purchase electricity for common consumers. This will adversely impact 2.8 crore consumers of the state especially the people below poverty line with consumption within 100 units, agricultural pumps, public street lights, water supply, government offices, etc. It will prove disastrous for the common people, including farmers and for the thousands of workers and engineers in the power sector.

Needless to say that electricity is a fundamental necessity of modern life, without which no development can take place. Therefore, any policy formulation and its legal scaffolding require to treat access to electricity as a basic good. But unfortunately, the actions being taken by the Government of Maharashtra is in contrary to these ethos and principles. The proposal for providing parallel license to private players is against the constitutional principles and may bring about irreparable damages to the Distribution Network of the state. Common consumers will get affected the worst if the Government is intending to issue parallel licences. In this scenario, I am requesting your personal intervention on this matter and immediately step back from the move to issue parallel licences to private players in order to safeguard the electricity sector of the state and also to protect the interest of the consumers. Expecting a favourable action at the earliest.

Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely,

(Elamaram Kareem)

**Shri. Eknath Shinde,
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Govt. of Maharashtra.**