

ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA

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Press Release

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8th Conference of EEFI calls upon Electricity Workers : Ensure Right to Energy for All - End contractorisation in Power Industry

Electricity Employees' Federation of India (EEFI), the most vibrant All India level federation of Electricity Workers and Employees hold its 8th National Conference in Hyderabad between 18th & 20th August, 2017. Venue of the conference was named as Com. Habibulla Nagar and Com. Murari Bose Manch. 389 delegates and observers including 15 fraternal delegates took part in the conference from 22 states.

Inaugural session of the conference was attended by all national level fraternal organisation like All India Power Engineers' Federation, All India Federation of Electricity Employees, All India Powermen's Federation & other organisation associated to National Co-ordination Committee of Electricity Employees & Engineers (NCCOEEE). Com. K O Habeeb, President of the Federation hoisted the EEFI Flag amidst sky blowing slogans and melody of songs. All the leaders present placed floral tribute to martyrs column.

Conference was formally inaugurated by Com. K Hemlatha, President of CITU. She inspired the participants of the conference to pledge their fullest sincerity & devotion to combat the adverse situation created globally by the imperialist-capitalist duo and nationally by their counterparts in India in the form of communal, divisionist, fundamentalist, separatist, anti people – anti working class forces. She also called the EEFI & its constituents to come forward to implement the decision adopted by the National Convention of workers, held at Delhi on 8th August, 2017. This struggle will have to be developed in such a magnitude, that the Government will have to opt either to change their anti people policy or to quit.

Delegate session was presided over by the presidium headed by Com. K O Habeeb. General Secretary's report was placed by Com. Prasanta N Chowdhury. Three major points covered in the report was explained by him while presenting the report. Those are policy of the Government towards curbing right of the people to have access to Energy in general, Electricity in specific. More than 50% of installed generating capacity is being unutilised barring a few peak hours of the day. Projected growth is showing negative trend. It indicates that claim Modi Government regarding escalation of growth rate is nothing but hoax. Series of scams in the Energy sector including exploitation of Energy resources has unveiled real face of Narendra Modi's war against corruption (bhrastachar). Government of India claimed UDAY scheme has become successful towards huge reduction of AT&C loss, as well reduction of debt burden of DISCOMs. In fact, the burden was shifted from DISCOMs to State Governments. No benefit of cost reduction has been passed on to consumers. Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 is posing threat to consumers of rural area. If the Bill is enacted and the Distribution business is split into two separate business of carriage and content, profit mongers will rush for the revenue potential urban areas, scope of cross subsidy will be eliminated. By that way rural consumers will be burdened immensely.

The conference had a separate session on the situation in the industry related to workers engaged through contractors, jobs outsourced, franchised. Fresh recruitment of Electricity workers is being averted and more and more number of contractor workers is being engaged for the skilled jobs. All of them are being paid at a wage rate, which is far below than that of the principle of Equal Wage for Equal Work within the ambit of Laws of the land and dictum of Supreme Court. Two specific

resolution on Implementation of Equal Wage for Equal Work, formulation and Implementation of specific schedule for Electricity workers within the ambit of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and Action plan against gross exploitation of workers engaged through contractors, jobs outsourced, franchised. The Action Plan will start from submission of memorandum to Chairmen of Electricity Utilities through mobilisation of workers at the lowest level on 25th October, 2017 (i.e. the 365th day after Supreme Court Judgment dated 26.10. 2016. Subsequently the programmes of demonstration and submission of memorandum to different higher authorities at the level of division, district / circle will be resorted to. Loot of Energy resources by Adani, Ambani, Tata, Jindal, Goenka brethren will be exposed. Public awareness campaign against the game plan of Modi Government towards curbing the right to Electricity in various means and ways will be continued throughout the country by the EEFI constituents. Next phase of action will start through submission of memorandum to Chief Minister and Prime Minister from demonstration at State capitals. At the event of reluctance attitude shown from all the authorities above. Mass petition will be sent to Hon'ble Chief Justice of respective High Court and Supreme Court. If all above constitutional authorities is found reluctant and bear with gross departure of Laws of the land, verdict of the Apex Court, the workers will have no other alternative than to resort to the path of strike. On 1st August, 2018 the nationwide strike of Electricity workers will take place. On 15th June, 2018 the notice of the strike will be issued from all EEFI constituents. Conference decided independently to go ahead but scope of joint movement will be kept open. In order to involve all the Electricity workers in this historic struggle suitable modification will be done through discussion of all the Trade Unions in Power Sector.

Com. Tapan Sen, General Secretary, CITU greeted the conference on 20th August, 2017. He welcomed the historic decision of the conference to call Nationwide struggle to protect and achieve further the rights and interest of Working Class as well Electricity at affordable cost for the people of our country. He appreciated various aspects dealt in the report of the General Secretary and invited the delegates to use the information packed in the report as a tools and weapon of struggle. He inspired the delegates to organise the Electricity workers in huge number for taking part in the Maha Pado at Delhi between 9th & 11th November, 2017. This struggle is an initiative to teach the Government the result of ignoring people, after sitting in the port folios of union ministry.

35 delegates took part in the debate upon report of the General Secretary. 24 delegates took part in the discussion on the resolutions on contractor workers issues and action plan there upon. Conference adopted the General Secretary's report, report of Treasurer and audited accounts along with 12 other resolutions. The conference elected Working Committee consisting 90 members. 25 Office Bearers were elected. Com. K O Habeeb was elected as President, Com. Swadesh Devroye as Working President, Com. Prasanta N Chowdhury as General Secretary and Com. S S Subramanian as Treasurer. Com. K O Habeeb, in his concluding speech appreciated the spirit of Comrades of Telengana and greeted them for successful completion of the conference. He also greeted leaders and members of CITU as well people of Telengana and the organisations who came forward to make the conference successful.