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# Voice

## OF ELECTRICITY WORKERS

Organ of Electricity Employees Federation of India

Jan.-Mar., Apr.-June & July-Sept. 2016

# Strike

2nd September, 2016



Trade unions cutting across political lines have stalled the nation on 2nd September, 2016



The National Convention of decided Central Trade Unions, General Strike on 2nd September, 2016



मोदी टालेंगे  
मजदूरों की  
हड़ताल



Rallying  
Strikers

Blocked  
Rail &  
Road



# VOICE

OF ELECTRICITY WORKERS

JAN.-MAR., APR.-JUN. &amp; JUL.-SEPT. 2016

VOL. XVI □ NO. 1, 2 &amp; 3

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> September : Workers Showed Modi A Red Card

National Convention of Workers held at Delhi on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 set prelude to stall India on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016. Government of India was shown yellow card on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015 and finally red card was shown after one year on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016. Now the ball is in Modi's court. He is to decide whether his option will be to continue the path of confrontation or be ousted by the working class of the country. PTI, the Government news media quoting Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya reported minimum impact of the strike. What other medias reported on the day of strike and subsequent days. Times of India reported strike hits normal life. Assocham reported economic loss was to the tune of Rupees 16,000-18,000 crores. Economic Times on the same evening published "Strike by 18 crores workers all over India to push Government to raise minimum wages." Industrial Global Union reported the strike receive massive support from workers across India. UNI Global Union reported the strike will compel the Government to think over its policy. Success or failure of strike will not be determined by the certificate from Government who follows policy to pamper the capitalists. Workers on 2<sup>nd</sup> September gathered further confidence to achieve its goal – no authentication is necessary.

People of India noted Modi to deliver a longest Independence Day speech from the rampart of the Red fort. So many topics he embraced but got afraid to put a call for communal harmony. He skillfully mentioned and cunningly avoided some words in his speech. Why he has not uttered "Black Money" or Kala Dhan in Hindi? Is he afraid people may call up their par capita due @ Rs 14 lakhs he committed to disburse to every Indian by fetching Black Money accrued by the capitalist in foreign banks? We know his limitations. He can't antagonize his sponsors, who bestowed their best hands to grab him the coveted portfolio of Prime Minister of India. He has vowed to change the Labour Laws to give his sponsors ease of making business. He has not uttered the names of late Narendra Davolkar, M M Kalburgi, Rohit Vemula or Md. Akhlakh who were butchered by his men. But he spent a long paragraph for Deen Dayal Upadhyay, his ideological guru. He mentioned Charkhadhari Mohan and Chakradhari Mohan. Was it silent utterance to remember his RSS boss Mohan?

## EDITORIAL

He has not mentioned that almost half of India's working population are aggrieved and ventilating their demands through resorting to Strike for minimum wage to have square meal, social security, equal right for the contract & regular workers. Modi cared a fig to workers. So he was given a fair deal on 2<sup>nd</sup> September with his own coin.

Anyone visiting to Ministry of Power website will be amused to note trends of huge campaign of achievement. But fact remains that 25% of Indian households does not have access to electricity. Some of the states like Bihar 33% of urban households and 87% rural households have no access to electricity. In Assam 16% urban and 66% rural households remained without electricity. In Jharkhand the figures are 12% and 63% respectively. In Odisha, the pioneer state of reform process figures are 17% and 52% respectively.

What is the priority before the Government has been unveiled through the Govt. of India papers placed in power ministers conference. The rating agencies (ICRA & CARE) were asked to assign weightage of 47% for reform related parameters. Bihar being the back bencher in rural / household electrification has been credited B+ with position of 17<sup>th</sup>, where as Kerala completed 100% rural electrification and almost household electrification is placed on 18<sup>th</sup> i.e. below Bihar. Tamilnadu a state serving 2.7 crore consumers by TNEB Ltd. Who will do the rating of Modiji and Sureshji for their credit of allowing Reliance

Power to mortgage Coal Block allocated to Sasan ultra mega power project. They are drawing a loan of Rs 14,500 crore upon the asset of people of India. We understand that asset of Modi's Govt. is ignorance and innocence of people of India.

EEFI is opposing contractorisation of routine jobs in power utilities. Campaign has been started. Haryana had an eye-opener struggle and defeated BJP Govt. there. They fought undaunted defying ESMA. Govt. had to bow down. All EEFI units in the states will intensify campaign and convert agitation to struggle on the single demand- END OF CONTRACTORISATION. 25<sup>th</sup> October is the day of culmination of present phase of struggle. All EEFI units will step ahead with Bolshevik competition.

EEFI along with other constituents of NCCOEEE has reinitiated its struggle against Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014. Power Minister committed NCCOEEE that the amendment will be finalized after discussion. But the discussion has been ceased midway. Power Ministry has indicated through media that the bill will be passed in the winter session of the Parliament. We are to be prepared for tooth and nail struggle to protect the interest of the people of India as well retention of right to electricity for all Indians. What can't be possible if the power sector is allowed to be preying field of the private profit mongers. So EEFI appeal before the Power men to rise to the occasion.

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## ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA

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No.  
Circular No.2/2016

Date : 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2016

### **Long live Workers' Unity - Long live Militant Struggle of Power workers of Haryana**

President and General Secretary on behalf of all constituents of EEFI across the country convey warm greetings to all Power workers of Haryana, who have achieved commendable victory through united militant struggle. Power industry of the country has become the laboratory of various forms of exploitation of workers in the name of franchising, outsourcing, contractisation, casualisation. Firm united resistance of workers is needed. Valiant struggle of Haryana with wider public support can be termed as pathfinder.

Joint Action Committee of Haryana power workers initiated their modest struggle since a few months back through protest demonstration, rally, dharna, mass casual etc. with demands of industry, consumers as well workers. Haryana Govt, decided to hand over 23 revenue potential sub-divisions to private hands. After series of protests J AC decided to resort to mass casual leave. Almost all the regular and contract workers abstained from duty. Management sacked 7400 contract workers and transferred hundreds of regular workers to remote places far away from respective native places. J AC did not bow down and continued relay hunger strike and wide campaign among the people all over the state. EEFI and other national power workers federations urged upon the Government to open dialogue. Haryana Government did not opt to settle the issues amicably. Finally, JAF resorted to path of strike. Both the unions gave notice of 2 days strike on 29 and 30th June.

Government threatened the workers dire consequence. Draconian ESMA was imposed to demoralise the workers. Electricity workers of Haryana at the behest of JAC dauntedly defied all the threats and kept their fighting spirit

very high. On 28th June Government reluctantly invited the leadership for discussion. Due to stubborn anti-people and anti worker attitude of the Government the discussion was futile. Over 80 percent of workers heroically took part in the two day long strike. Of late, government of Haryana realised the spirit of unity and struggle of Haryana power workers. On the expiry of 48 hours duration of successful strike, government invited J AC leadership for discussion on the demands of strike.

On 2nd July, a long discussion of seven hours was held. Government agreed to continue operation activities under the department itself. Only maintenance job will be outsourced under departmental supervision. All transferred workers will be retained at their respective sub-division. Their performance will be monitored by a committee comprising of representatives of both the unions for a period of six months. Suitable steps will be adopted thereafter.

2. All sacked contract workers will be inducted on the job. Suspensions will be withdrawn. All legal measures on ESMA against the workers will be quashed. Absence due to strike and mass leave will be regularised.
3. Wage rate of contract workers will be increased.
4. Local outdoor duty allowance will be increased @ Rupees 500/-
5. Increase in wage rate of clerical cadre has been agreed upon.
6. Some demands have not yet been agreed upon. Those will be discussed with the Chief Minister at the earliest.

EEFI constituents are requested to circulate Haryana struggle and development among the workers.

(Prasanta N Chowdhury)

**ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA**

No. 003/2016

26<sup>th</sup> July, 2016**CIRCULAR**

EEFI Working Committee met at Delhi on 23rd July, 2016. Com. K. O. Habib presided over the meeting. At the onset, meeting paid respectful homage to Com. A. B. Bardhan. Com. K. O. Habib made his opening remark to commence the meeting. National situation in general, on organisation and industry was taken up for discussion. Salient points of discussion & decision thereupon are detailed below for awareness of the organizers and members of constituent organisations all over the country:

1. In the course of placing the agenda, reporting on organisation, industry & movement the General Secretary greeted the struggle of Haryana & Telengana Electricity Workers. In both the cases our union took commendable role. Besides the General issues of workers & industry major issue in both the State was to curb exploitation of contractor workers. Their wage increase & process of regularisation. Arrogant government of both the states were compelled to opt path of discussion for settlement Haryana Government imposed ESMA but valiant workers fought undaunted. Besides wage revision, all punitive measures imposed have been unconditionally withdrawn. In Telengana, government signed an agreement to disburse wages directly to workers eliminating the contractor.

Further details will be published in next issue of voice. In fine, we are to gather confidence for future struggle upon experience of Haryana & Telengana. We know unity of workers of power industry can bend any arrogant Government from its rigidity of oppression.

2. General Secretary appreciably mentioned the development on reporting. Good nos. of unions sent their activity report before the working committee meeting. Those have been circulated among the working committee members and will be published in Voice.
3. On Industry, it has been observed that dismal picture on Generation & Distribution is being revealed. Power Minister' conference held on 16 -17<sup>th</sup> June at Goa has

assigned new time frame for completion of household electrification before 2019 parliament Election. This reflects the ultimate goal of the Government. It was observed rating of power utilities done by ICRA & CRISIL, highest mark allocated for achieving the so called "reform". Neither the availability of power to people nor affordability of cost was taken into consideration. We are to draw the attention of people.

4. Working Committee reviewed the preparation for 2nd September General Strike in Power Sector and reaffirmed that all measures should be adopted to make the strike total success. Besides open campaign on the demands of strike series of department level meetings as well General body, Units, Sub Divisions, Divisions and higher committees to be organised to make the workers realize that the issues are related to survival of working class and people in General, Besides campaign on own initiative, EEFI will join all major State / District initiative of CITU and CTUs to make the strike a grand success. All the major organisations, will periodically update EEFI centre on the preparation of strike.
5. NCCOEEE. had its National Forum meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2016 at BTR Bhawan, New Delhi. NCCOEEE has issued a joint declaration to support the issues of strike and requested all its constituents to join/support the strike.
6. NCOEEE has also decided that a letter will be issued to Power Minister to request him to resume the discussion on Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2014, by the earliest possible time. At the event of non-response within 2 months next, NCOEEE will decide next course of action. Meanwhile public campaign on various adverse implications of the Bill should be intensified. Detailed programme has been chalked out. All our organisations should put their best effort to make the agitation and campaign successful, NCCOEEE Circular & Declaration are attached here to for needful compliance.

7. A series of public awareness campaign has been scheduled by NCCOEEE between August & October. Almost in all the states we are to take up the initiative to make the programme successful. In parallel we are to develop our campaign against exploitation of contractor workers with the target of converting campaign into agitation and finally broader struggle on the issues of contractor workers. This phase of movement will culminate on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 by observing "End Contractorisation Day". Massive rally will have to be organized at suitable location/s. All the unions will submit memorandum to the respective Chairman of Power utilities, Power Minister and Labour Minister of the state. Copies are to be endorsed to EEFI Centre.
8. Working Committee decided that 8th Conference of the Federation will be organised between middle of February & middle of March, 2017. Venue will be finalized within next couple of months. Telengana State United Electricity Employees Union has been requested to explore possibility of hosting the conference. As the union is in blooming stage, our major organisations from adjacent States will extend support to them.
9. Progress of expansion of organization in Odisha, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, AP & Telengana was reported in the working committee. In Odisha 16 Unions joined EEFI in a widely attended state conference held on 10<sup>th</sup> April at Bhubneswar. Our former AP union had membership below 7000, now only Telengana alone is having 6500 member, AP has also gathered almost equal strength. Assam, Haryana, Sahayak(WB), Telengana organized their conference in the intervening period. COTEE conference is planned by 13-16 August. General Secretary will attend the conference.
10. Working Committee was apprised on the progress of construction of P Ramamunhy Bhawan where EEFI will have its permanent national centre office. The building is on the verge of completion of structural work. round 400 sq. ft, has been earmarked for EEFI. By the end of this year (2016), expectedly we may start our function from this new office. We paid CITU the cost of construction. We are to spend a considerable fund for befitting furnishing of the office. Our 7<sup>th</sup> Conference decided to put an appeal to members of all organizations to pay @ 5% to EEFI from their one month's enhanced pay after wage settlement. Some of the organizations had good revision of wages but they forgot the decision of Kanchipuram Conference. This is mentioned just to remind our comrades.
11. 17th Conference of WFTU will take place between 5 & 8 October, 2016 at Durban, South Africa. EEFI has nominated Com. Prasanta N Cbowdhury as delegate for the conference. WFTU has requested to contribute through coupon of Euro 1000 towards cost of conference. EEFI will pay INR 70,000/- as contribution to WFTU.
12. Next issue of voice will be published by a fortnight next. Photographs of activities should be sent by e-mail by the earliest possible time.
13. EEFI website will be regularly updated from Kolkata after thorough updating of the site. All are requested to avail the scope of quickest publicity.

General Secretary

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## सर्कुलर

26<sup>th</sup> July, 2016

कामरेड के ओ हबीब की अध्यक्षता में EEFI की कार्यकारणी समिति की मीटिंग २३ जुलाई २०१६ को दिल्ली में हुई। मीटिंग की शुरुवात कामरेड के ओ हबीब ने कामरेड ए बी बर्धन को श्रदांजलि देते हुए आरम्भ की। देश की आम समस्या, संगठन और उद्योग बातचीत के मुद्दा रहे। मीटिंग में रखे गये महत्वपूर्ण

मुद्दे इस प्रकार हैं-

१. जो भी प्रयत्न हरियाणा और तेलंगाना विद्युत कर्मचारियों ने संगठन और उद्योगों को मद्देनजर रख कर किया उनको महासचिव ने मीटिंग के दौरान सराहा और दोनों ही मामले में हमारी यूनियन ने बढ़िया नेतृत्व दिया। दोनों

ही राज्यों में जो भी आम और जरूरी विवाद हैं कर्मचारियों और उद्योगों को लेकर उसमें मुख्य बात ये हैं कि दोनों ही राज्यों में जमकर ठेका कर्मचारियों का शोषण किया जा रहा है। वेतन वृद्धि और नियमित करना मुख्य मुद्दा है। दोनों ही राज्यों की घमंडी सरकारों को समझोते के रास्ते पर आना ही पड़ा। हरियाणा की सरकार ने एस्मा लगाया फिर भी कर्मचारियों ने निडर हो कर लड़ाई जारी रखी। वेतन वृद्धि के अलावा जो भी दंडात्मक कार्यवाही कर्मचारियों पर थोपी गयी थी उनको बिना किसी शर्त के वापिस ले लिया गया। तेलंगाना सरकार ने समझोता कर, जो भी ठेका कर्मियों को निकाला गया था उन सबको सीधा वेतन दिया जाना भी स्वीकार किया।

इसके बारे में और अधिक जानकारी Voice के अगले अंक में प्रकाशित की जायेगी। हरियाणा और तेलंगाना के अनुभव के बाद हमारा विश्वास और ज्यादा बढ़ा है। हमें अब ये पता चल चुका है की हम अपने बिजली संगठनों के कर्मचारियों की एकता के बल पर किसी भी घमंडी सरकार के दमनकारी नीतियों को झुका सकने में पूरी तरह से समर्थ हैं।

२. महासचिव ने सुचना में हो रहे विकास की प्रशंसा करते हुए कहा कि बहुत सी यूनियन ने अपनी गतिविधियों की रिपोर्ट कार्यकारणी समिति की मीटिंग शुरू होने से पहले ही दे दी थी। साथ ही सभी कर्मचारी समिति के साथियों को भेज दी गयी है और Voice में प्रकाशित भी होगी।
३. ये देखने में आ रहा है कि उद्योग में उत्पादन और वितरण का निराशाजनक चित्रण किया जा रहा है। बिजली मंत्री के १६-१७ जून के गोवा में हुए सम्मेलन में घरेलू बिजलीकरण के लिए नया समय निर्धारित करा गया है जो कि २०१९ के संसद के चुनाव से पहले का है। यह सरकार का मुख्य उद्देश्य में से एक है। इसमें न तो बिजली की उपयोगिता और न ही बिजली को वहन करने के बारे

में ध्यान दिया गया है। इसके बारे में हमें जनता का ध्यान आकर्षित करना है।

४. कार्यकारणी समिति ने २ सितंबर की बिजली क्षेत्र में होने वाली हड़ताल की तैयारियों की समीक्षा की और हड़ताल की सफल होने की पुनः पुष्टि भी की। इसके अलावा हड़ताल की मांगों को लेकर हर विभागों में खुला अभियान भी चलाया जाएगा ताकि कर्मचारी ये समझ सकें कि ये मुद्दे कर्मचारियों और आम जनता से जुड़े हुए हैं। हमारे अपने अभियान के अलावा EEFI, सीटू और CTUs की हड़ताल की पहल को सफल बनाने के लिए उसमें भागीदारी भी करेगा।
  ५. NCCOEEEE की राष्ट्रीय सभा २ जुलाई २०१६ को बी टी आर भवन, नई दिल्ली में आयोजित हुई थी। जहाँ पर NCCOEEEE ने हड़ताल के विषयों पर अपना समर्थन देते हुए अपना संयुक्त घोषणापत्र जारी किया और अपने सभी संघटकों को हड़ताल में सहयोग देने के लिए अनुरोध भी किया।
  ६. NCCOEEEE ने ये भी निर्णय लिया कि एक पत्र पॉवर मिनिस्टर को भी दिया जाएगा जिसमें उनसे अनुरोध किया जाएगा कि जल्द से जल्द बिजली संशोधन बिल, २०१४ पर चर्चा की जाए। अगर २ महीने में कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं आती तो आगे NCCOEEEE निर्णय लेगी कि आगे क्या करना है। पर अभी जनता के बीच अभियान को और तेज करने की जरूरत है और उन्हें इस बिल के हानिकारक दुष्प्राभावों से अवगत कराना भी जरूरी है। पुरे कार्यक्रमों की रुपरेखा तैयार कर ली गयी है। हमारे सारे संगठनों को अपना पूरा सहयोग देना चाहिए ताकि आंदोलन और अभियान को सफल बनाया जा सके।
- NCCOEEEE का सर्कुलर और घोषणा पत्र भी संलग्न है।
७. श्रृंखलाबद्ध जागरुकता अभियान भी NCCOEEEE ने बनाया हुआ है जो अगस्त से अक्टूबर के बीच चलाया जायेगा।

लगभग सभी राज्यों में हमने प्रोग्राम को सफल करने के लिए मोर्चा संभाला है। इसके साथ-साथ एक अभियान और बनाया जा रहा है ठेका मजदूरों के शोषण को लेकर जिसका मुख्य लक्ष्य है अभियान को और व्यापक करके ठेका मजदूरों के विषय को उठाना। अभियान का ये दौर २५ अक्टूबर, २०१६ को "End of contractorisation Day" के नाम से जाना जायेगा। एक स्थान पर बहुत बड़ी रैली भी आयोजित की जायेगी। सारी यूनियन अपना-अपना ज्ञापन पावर मिनिस्टर चेयरमैन और राज्य के श्रम मंत्री को देंगे। उसकी प्रतिलिपि EEFI केंद्र को भी अंकित करेंगे।

८. कार्यकारणी समिति ने निर्णय लिया है कि ८ वें संघ का सम्मेलन फरवरी और मार्च २०१७ के बीच में किया जाएगा। सम्मेलन का स्थान कुछ महीनों में ही निश्चित कर लिया जाएगा। तेलंगाना स्टेट यूनाइटेड इलेक्ट्रिसिटी एम्प्लाइज यूनियन ने निवेदन किया है कि सम्मेलन के लिए उनके यहाँ पर स्थान चुनने पर विचार विमर्श करें। यूनियन की नई संभावना को देखने हुए आस-पास के नजदिकी राज्यों के बड़े संगठन को अपना सहयोग देते रहना होगा।
९. उड़ीसा, महाराष्ट्र, हिमाचल प्रदेश, कर्णाटक, आंध्र प्रदेश और तेलंगना में संगठनों की विस्तार और फैलाव की रिपोर्ट कार्यकारणी बैठक में रखी गयी। भुवनेश्वर में १० वीं राज्य सम्मेलन में उड़ीसा की १६ यूनियनों ने EEFI में भाग लिया। आंध्र प्रदेश की सदस्यता की संख्या ७००० से नीचे है और अभी तेलंगना के अकेले के ६५०० सदस्यता है, जो कि आंध्र प्रदेश की संख्या के समान है। असम, हरियाणा, सहायक (वेस्ट बंगाल) और तेलंगाना बीच बीच में अपना सम्मेलन भी करते रहते हैं। COTEE सम्मेलन की बैठक १३ से १६ अगस्त को करवाने की योजना है। महासचिव इस सम्मेलन में उपस्थित रहेंगे।

१०. कार्यकारणी समिति की बैठक में ये अवगत कराया गया कि पी राममूर्ति भवन निर्माणधीन है जहाँ पर EEFI का स्थायी राष्ट्रीय केंद्र होगा। भवन के निर्माण का काम जल्दी ही पूरा होने वाला है। वहाँ पर ४०० स्क्वायर फीट EEFI सेंटर के लिए जगह निर्धारित हुई है। इस साल के अंत तक शायद हम अपना नया ऑफिस वही से शुरू करेंगे। इसके लिए हम सीटू को निर्माण का खर्चा दे रहे हैं। ऑफिस के फर्नीचर के खर्चे के लिए भी हमें अपने फण्ड से देना होगा। ७ वें सम्मेलन में ये फैसला लिया गया था कि सभी संगठनों से अपील की जाये कि वेतन निपटारे के बाद सभी संगठन @5% को अपने महीने के बजट से दे। कुछ संगठन का वेतन सुधार हुआ परंतु वो कांचीपुरम सम्मेलन में हुए फैसले को भूल गए। ये हमारे कामरेड्स के स्मरण के लिए लिखा है।

११. WFTU का १७ वां सम्मेलन डरबन, साउथ अफ्रीका में ५ और ८ अक्टूबर को होगा। कामरेड प्रशांत एन चौधुरी को उक्त सम्मेलन के लिए EEFI द्वारा मनोनीत किया गया है। WFTU ने सभी से निवेदन किया है कि सम्मेलन के लिए १००० यूरो कूपन के द्वारा योगदान करें और जिसके लिए EEFI Rs. 70,000/- का योगदान WFTU को सम्मेलन के लिए करेगा।

१२. आगे का नया 'voice' का प्रकाशन अगले पखवाड़े में प्रकाशित किया जाएगा। किसी भी तरह की गतिविधि की फोटो जल्द से जल्द ई-मेल में भेजे।

१३. EEFI की वेबसाइट अपडेट होने के बाद नियमित रूप से कलकत्ता से ही संचालित की जायेगी। आप सभी से निवेदन है कि जल्दा प्रचार का लाभ उठाने के लिए सहयोग करें।

(प्रशांत एन चौधुरी)  
महासचिव - EEFI

## **HEROIC STRUGGLE AND HISTORIC STRIKE BY THE ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES OF HARYANA**

Electricity employees of Haryana made a powerful and successful strike on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 against the decision of BJP Government of Haryana to hand over the distribution system of 23 sub-divisions to the private owners, neglecting the genuine demands of employees. Before the strike call, the employees gave an alert to the government by taking mass casual leave. On the 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2016, 25233 employees of the state participated in that programme and showed their resentment over the decision of privatization. The BJP Government without creating an atmosphere of discussion with the leaders of the employees they tried to terrorized the employees by retrenching 7471 contractual workers and punishment came down to the considerable numbers of leadership. In that situation the electricity employees solidify their unity and spread it among the people. They gave befitting reply to BJP Government by making the strike a grand success. In spite of proclamation of ESMA 91% employees of north Haryana and 80% of employees of south Haryana took part in the strike. The role of the contractual workers in the strike was really admirable.

### **The BJP Government crossed the limit of violence and oppression**

To foil the strike call by the joint action committee power on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 the BJP Government made a fresh action of violence and repression on the employees. Without having a discussion with the leadership of Joint Action Committee Power, the Government declared black act like ESMA on 24<sup>th</sup> June. By issuing that order they imposed ban on strike for 6 months. Not only that the government took stay orders from all the courts of the state that 77 central office bearers of the two organizations along with their general members could not go to, within the 500 meters circumference, any of the electricity offices, but also they could not organize any stay-in-strike, procession, gate meeting or even could not shout any slogan. That was not enough they imposed 144 rule surroundings of all the sub-stations generating stations and all office premises. The government arranged videography in all the stations and offices to watch the

activities of the employees and by that they tried to create panic among the employees. Like war field considerable number of police force was posted all the offices. At that phase, the Government dismissed 496 contractual workers, 43 leaders were suspended and 23 were transferred long distance stations as punishment. Despite all those undemocratic and oppressive measures taken by the Government, more than 25000 electricity employees replied the Government a face slapping reply by taking part in the strike.

### **All the opposition parties condemned, the Government for the order of ESMA, in a one voice**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> June Mohan Lal Government declared ESMA to foil the strike of Electricity Employees. Then and there all the opposition political parties came out against the proclamation of ESMA against electricity employees strike. Congress, National Lok dal, CPI (M), CPI. SUCI (communist) etc. parties strongly condemned the measures taken by the Government. The leaders of the political parties said that, when the Government was in the process of discussion with the leaders of the electricity employees about strike then declaration of black rule like ESMA was the intention to foil the strike. The BJP Government had old history of suppressing toiling people. Active role of the opposition parties also pressurized the Government. The steps of the Government were condemned by the print and electronic media also.

### **What were the issues of the strike**

The BJP Government took the decision that from April, 2016 the operation and maintenance activities of 23 Subdivisions would be privatized. It would be mentioned that 33% of income being earned from these Subdivisions to the Electricity Distribution Corporation. In effect of privatization the employees had to be transferred to other places. The jobs like meter reading, bill distribution, preparation of bills, laying of new lines were privatized earlier. So major two organizations of the employees in Electricity Corporation formed joint action committee and opposed the decision of privatization.

**The main demands were :-**

- 1) To stop privatization of maintenance & operation functions, this has already decided.
- 2) Install a 800MW super thermal power plant for the consumers to get cheap and 24hrs electricity
- 3) To be filled up 30 thousand vacant post in permanent manner.
- 4) Nominee of the employees died in accident should be given permanent employment and suitable compensation.
- 5) Part time workers, daily rated workers of the Corporation should be provided with permanent job.
- 6) Same work, same pay should be implemented.
- 7) Discrepancy in salary of employees and officers should be abolished.
- 8) Reconstructed the posts according to the increased work load in the Distribution Corporation.
- 9) The differences of salary and promotion of ministerial staff working at Head office and Field offices should be eliminated.
- 10) The mother of corruption and patron of exploitation — the policy of outsourcing, privatization and contractarisation in the Corporation should be scrutinized.
- 11) The scams created in the Corporation due to those policy implemented after 1998 should be probed by a sitting Judge.
- 12) To stop rate of increasing accidents in the Corporation, proper remedial steps should be taken.

**Electricity Employees gave a face slapping reply to the administrative power of the Government**

Participating in the mass casual leave in a very large number on 11<sup>th</sup> may, 2016 Haryana Joint Action Committee showed their organizational strength and unity of the electricity employees which was realized by the government. In spite of realizing the gravity and the mood of situation Government took the path of oppression. Committee organized meetings and processions against the tyranny and oppression at every circles. It was resulted

that when Government without any discussion banned the strike for 6 months by declaring ESMA on the 24<sup>th</sup> June, the electricity employees burnt the order copies of ESMA at every districts on 25<sup>th</sup> June. According to the strategy of pressurizing the government Procession with torch organized at towns and villages, just before one day of the strike. The employees of other departments of the Government along with working people under various trade unions participated on those torch processions and warned the Government heavily to stop the undemocratic act of the Government. On 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June the employees who participated in the strike and the employees of other departments came down to the road and organized mammoth gatherings. The electricity employees informed the situation and requested the MLAs, MPs and secretaries of all the political parties of the state to intervene into the issue.

**Took programmes to get the support of common people**

Having got the important lesson from the 72hrs strike on January, 2014, the Committee took the decision that the essential service and the supply of electricity should not be disturbed due to strike . To get the support of the common mass and expose the anti people activities like privatization of BJP Government we organised mass meetings at more than 1000 villages. Besides those the consumers and employees jointly convened seminars at every districts and subdivisions. In those seminars large numbers of elected panchayet sarpanches, municipal commissioners, elected members of district Board along with All India Kissan Sabha, Bharatia Kissan Union, CITU, AITUC also participated in a large numbers. On behalf of the Committee 5 lacs leaf-lets distributed. 10thousands wall posters and a large number of flex boards displayed through out the state.

**The organizations who supported the strike**

Tapan Sen the General Secretary of CITU and MP, wrote a letter to the chief Minister of Haryana Mr. Monohar Lal condemning the steps taken by his Government to foil the strike, he also wrote the worse effect of the privatization and advised to sit on the table and resolve the issue. On behalf of Electricity Employees Federation (EEFI) sent a letter to the Ch. Minister of Haryana describing the adverse effect of privatization policy on other states and requested

him to arrange a discussion in congenial atmosphere and come to an end to the strike instead of taking the oppressive measures. Sailendra Singh Dubey, the Chairman of All India Power Engineers Association also wrote a letter to the CM of Haryana supported the issue of the strike and requested to resolve the issue.

Many organizations have taken joint programmes in support of the strike.

At the call of EEFI Punjab joint forum was organised a rally in support of 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> June strike. Haryana Employees Federation representing the other departments held gate meetings on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June and organized a torch rally on 27<sup>th</sup> June unitedly. In some districts CITU, AITUC, Kissan Sabha and the state government employees unitedly organized several programmes. Engineers of the two Corporations supported the strike by wearing black badges.

### **The Governments tried to weaken the strike by using BMS**

Among the Government employees in different departments of the Haryana there are no existence of BMS, but after the BJP came to the power in Haryana, BMS is trying to inroads in few departments. In power department also they have an union whose all together membership throughout the state may be less than 100. In the nodding of Government, BMS union tried to organize a committee with SC/ST and OBC Employees Association. That committee went to all the circles and propagated against strike and wrote to the Government to take strong action against the strikers as well as they demanded for proper arrangement of safety and security for their members to join duty during the strike period. But the electricity employees of the state made their effort significant

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## **STRUGGLE OF ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES IN PUNJAB**

Electricity Employees in Punjab are continuously struggling for their demands as well as rights. To make it successful they have formed a common platform, called P.S.E.B. Employees. Joint forum. In this forum an important role is being played by Technical Services Union.

As we know it that under the industrial and economic policy of the Central Government all the electricity board have been abolished. Under this policy Electricity board of Punjab has also been abolished. No doubt electricity employees, Kissan union, Labour union struggled for its protection but all in view and on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010 Punjab State Electricity Board was broken or divided into two Corporations. At the time of unbundling of the board Tri-Partite Pact agreement was Committed, in which main agenda was to maintain the service conditions as well difference of their pay as earlier or as it was. This agreement was signed by P.S.E.B. Employees Joint Forum-Punjab, Engineers Association, J.E.Council's Leadership, Management and Government of Punjab. But now the management of Powercom and Transco (Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, Punjab State Transmission Corporation Limited) is breaking & betraying it and showing unresponsibility for fulfilling their demands and this is the chief or main cause of the struggle of Electricity Employees.

At the time of last Assembly Elections Punjab Government increased Pay Band & Grade Pay of its Employees. But it didn't happen to electricity workers, so it was natural that they demanded for this increment under this Joint Forum of Punjab. After a long struggle they succeeded the gain, that was a great achievement. But Work charge employees could not take benefit of it.

### **Main Agenda**

1. According to Tri-Partite agreement for keeping a difference in this pays, there must be an increment in Pay Band.
2. Increment in grade pay that was applied on 01-12-2011 must be applied for workcharge employees.
3. Workcharge/R.T.M. must be promoted to assistant Lineman .that are pending from 31.12.2000.
4. Like Punjab Govt. Employees there must be increment in mobile Allowances of Electricity Employees.
5. Meter Reader, B.D. and Cashier who are working on contractual basis must be regularized, till their regularization of their service there must be increment their pays and Surplus employees must be adjusted.
6. 4000 unemployed lineman must be recruited

7. Outsourcing & Contractual system must be abolished and whole work should be made done by department.
8. According to work or demand, new posts must be created and vacant posts must be filled by regular recruitment.
9. First preference must be given to departmental thermal plants rather than private plants. And they must be conducted with full efficiency.
10. Promotion of a Lineman to Junior Engineer must be based on departmental test as it is now.
11. Problems of the Thermals and Hydels must be solved immediately.
12. 20% reservation must be restarted for the promotion of LDC to UDC.
13. Pending cases of priority based services must be handled immediately.

Struggle is being conducted for all these demands. To proceed it a protest (dharna) at State Level was decided to held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 before it the management of Powercom committed an agreement with the Leadership of Joint Forum on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2016 and Dharna or Protest was Postponed. But mournfully no demand was fulfilled or no compromise of that agreement was applied. Even no agreement was fulfilled. After one and half month on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 a meeting with Joint Forum was kept at CMD Level, before it many meetings had already been held, but they bore no fruit. Despite of clarity the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 presented and one sided minute which were for behind the pact of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016. So the management of Powercom betrayed electricity employees by doing this. At the same time Transco's management broke Tri-Party pact. It abolished many posts like O.C., Telephone attendant, Carpenter, Diesel Mechanic, R.T.M., D.M.O., Test Mechanic, Fitter, Chokidar, Mali, Sweeper etc. It also abolished many sub divisions or shifted in a far areas. For all this harassment Joint Forum decided to Protest against it from 25<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> May at Sub division level and on 5<sup>th</sup> May protest was held in Patiala at State Level Dharna on this again management gave the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 of its meeting with Joint Forum. But like earlier promises management did nothing for employees. It was worse for employees that they neither was done nor they could protest on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and it was postponed on 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Head office. Then again to avoid this protest

management of powercom gave the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016, But no meeting was held so the protest of 3<sup>rd</sup> June was confirmed.

According to plan protest was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 at the main gate of Head Office Patiala. In spite of hotness of the season electricity workers from every part of Punjab joined it near about ten unions were working under it. But more than 50% of employees were from T.S.U. and stage was also conducted by General Secretary of T.S.U. Sh. Jagtar Singh Uppal and it was a successful one that time. It was also decided that black flag march would be held from 10<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 against CMD's & Directors of both managements. Then on 21<sup>st</sup> June in the meeting of Joint Forum black march was decided to extend to till 10<sup>th</sup> July. Still there was no change in their policies or attitude. So on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 protest was held at the main gate of Head Office Patiala. Traffic was totally banned. After in CMD Powercom convinced Joint Forum Leadership that their problems would be solved very soon. Again nothing was done. Circumstances are same as these were.

A special meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in Patiala and following steps of struggle were decided to influence management:-

1. Protest with Black flags march in the field against CMD & Directors of Powercom & Transco will continue till 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
2. A State level protest will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at Head Office Patiala.
3. Work to Rule will be applied like this :-
  - (i) Electricity workers will work only for eight hours. Workers working in shifts will also follow this rule.
  - (ii) Mobile phones will be attended only during duty time. After duty time it will be switched off.
  - (iii) No technical employees will work in lonely.
  - (iv) Work will be not done on lines without permit. Permit will only be given J.E. and A.J.E. which working as a JE on code.
  - (v) Clerical staff No work on Holiday.
  - (vi) No employees will check electricity theft etc electricity after or before his duty time.

If it needed, then the time of Work To Rule can be extended than 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016. where electricity employees in

struggle, there is Govt. employees also in struggle for achieve over demands. The Government of Punjab is going to merge D.A. But D.A. of 23 months is still pending. Central Govt. has applied new Pay Commission Report But Punjab Government is doing nothing. So a demand notice is prepared to cover various demands, for it a common platform 'Punjab and U.T. Employees Struggle Committee' is formed. This committee has been struggling for its rights for a long time and announced its further actions that has been done or will be done in near coming days.

1. There was a great protest at D.C. office Mohali for three days continuously.
2. Protested against Finance Minister Sh. Perminder Singh Dhindsa on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2015 in Sangrur.
3. Protest against Mall Minister Sh. Bikram Singh Majithia on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in Amritsar.
4. March against Education Minister Sh. Daljit Singh Cheema on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in Ropar.
5. Great march passed in Chandigarh on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016.
6. Flag march against Education Minister Sh. Daljit Singh Cheema on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
7. Flag march against Panchayat Minister Sh. Sikander

Singh Maluka on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in Rampura Phool.

8. Flag March against Local Body Minister Sh. Anil Joshi on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016 in Amritsar.
9. March against Agriculture Minister Sh. Tota Singh on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in Moga.
10. 29-30 June, 2016 in support of Haryana Bijli Karmachari Strike Punjab Bijli Karmachari 2 days continuous rallies in all Sub Divisions wearing black badge.
11. Contacter workers held rally and march at Bhatinda area of CM, Punjab on the demands of Regularisation of services, increase in wages and adjustment of surplus workers due to spot billing.

#### **Further Actions:-**

1. From 18<sup>th</sup> July to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016 there will be District level rallies and Memorandum/Demand Notice will be given to D.C.
2. On 7<sup>th</sup> August 2016 there will be a great Rally and March in consingency of Bibi Harsimrat Kaur at Bathinda.

Management for all these actions has been done. Joint Forum is trying convince the present Govt. and wants to be fulfilled its demands as soon as possible.

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## **NCCOEEE : AP CONVENTION AT NELLORE**

Constituents of NCCOEEE of AP organized a massive convention on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 at Nellore as a part of mass awareness programme against Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014. Sh. Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury, Convener NCCOEEE took part in the convention as main speaker. Convention was attended by Electricity employees and engineers from all the functioning organizations. Number of participants exceeded 200. Convention was presided over by Sh. Duggirala Suribabu, President United Electricity Employees Union, AP (EEFI). He moved the basic resolution for the convention. Sh. P N Chowdhury attending the convention put his clarion call to make 2<sup>nd</sup> September nationwide strike successful in AP power sector. He narrated in brief the demands of the strike and obnoxious role of the Government of India towards mediaeval modification of labour laws. Workers

are denied all their democratic and constitutional right in general. Worst victims are the contractual workers. We are to develop joint action to end contractorisation in Power sector. He also criticised Ministry of Power Government of India for it's under the table hands in favour of private players in Power sector. Rating of power utilities by ICRA and CARE published by MOP, GOI revealed that performance of the utilities in respect of better service to people is not the criterion. How obediently they are complying Government of India instructions towards path of reform is the main factor. Sh R Saibaba (INTUC), Sh K V Sessa Reddy (APPDEA), Sh Sivaiah (YSR Employees Union), Sh P Sivaiah (AITUC), Sh K Victor (SC & ST Welfare Association), Sh P Shrihari Babu (SVES) & Sh C H Nagabramhachari (UEEU) also spoke in support of the resolution.

## NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES & ENGINEERS

### CIRCULAR

Aug 24, 2016,

**Sri Piyush Goyal,  
Hon'ble Minister (Independent Charge),  
Ministry of Power, Coal and Renewable Energy  
Government of India  
Shram Shakti Bhawan  
New Delhi**

**Sub: Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014**

Dear Sir,

Please refer to our memorandum Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2016 submitted to you in continuation to our discussion on the captioned subject. In the course of discussion, we gathered the impression that, we shall have the scope of exchange of opinion before further steps are adopted on the part of the Government towards legislation process.

Your commitment towards development of consensus was highly applauded by our representatives took part in the discussion at Kochi and Delhi. We also mentioned the same in our letter dated 2nd February, 2016. "National Co-ordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE), the broad based platform of all major Federations of Power sector Employees and Engineers of the country express our thankfulness for your gesture towards amicable discussion."

Of late, we have noted through press communication that Ministry of Power has circulated a revised draft of the

Bill among the state governments for their concurrence. The Bill will be passed in the winter session of the Parliament if accepted by the state governments. Our query with appropriate departments of different states revealed that no further draft other than the same placed in the Parliament on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 has been received.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2016 NCCOEEE apex body met at Delhi and reviewed the situation. We have closely identified the difference between propositions of the Government behind drafting the amendment and our areas of concern. We think, you have also noted our gesture to minimize the gaps.

NCCOEEE noted that besides an effort of identifying a mutually convenient date for discussion in the month of April last, no further steps towards resolution has been taken. You are aware that, our points of concern relates to interest of common electricity consumers. At this situation, we have decided to develop public awareness campaign on the adverse implications of the Bill upon end consumers.

Meanwhile, we request you to reopen the forum of discussion, so that our suggestions can be taken into consideration.

Prasanta N Chowdhury  
Convenor

## NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES & ENGINEERS

The meeting of NCCOEEE took place at BTR Bhawan, New Delhi on 22.7.2016 under chairmanship of Sri S. Rathina Sabapathy, Senior most Leader of Tamilnadu Electricity Workers movement.

Sri. Prasanta Nandi Chowdhary moved the Condolence Resolution to pay respectful homage to Com. A.B. Bardhan

the legendary leader of Indian Trade Union movement, Communist movement as well movement of Electricity Workers and Employees. Two minutes silence was observed in the memory of respectable comrade A.B. Bardhan.

Sri. Rathina Sabapathy as President of the meeting

made his opening remarks and asked all to take part in the meeting for arriving decision on the Agenda.

After prolonged discussions over the agenda by the participants the following point were resolved unanimously.

### DECISIONS

1. Nationwide campaign for two months to be organized against Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2014. State level and district level conventions have to be organized by the state level constituents of NCCOEEE as awareness programme. Massive Campaign through demonstration Dharna, Rally & Public Conventions on the implication of the Bill will be organized as per proposed schedule below :
  - a) State level NCCOEEE conventions from 10<sup>th</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2016.
  - b) District level conventions 5<sup>th</sup> September to 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2016
  - c) Public awareness Campaign through mass rally, public meeting, sit-in demonstration - Human Chain from 21<sup>st</sup> September to 20 October, 2016. Electricity Consumers should have to be involved in these programmes as much as possible. State/ District level conveners of NCCOEEE will convene the preparatory meeting to finalise the detailed Campaign programme. In State/District where designated Convener is not there the Secretary

of Major organization will convene the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting consulting leaders of other organisations. Formal Convener will be elected/nominated from that meeting.

- d) A booklet on implications of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill will be published by NCCOEEE. All State Chapters of NCCOEEE will translate the content in regional language for widest circulation.
2. A letter to the Power Minister, Govt. of India will be sent on behalf of NCCOEEE on the issue of proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 with 2 months time frame. He will be requested to resume discussion before the Bill is moved in the Winter Session of the Parliament as gathered from press statement of the Power Minister. Next meeting of NCCOEEE will decide further course of action, if Minister's response is unsatisfactory.
3. NCCOEEE will support in general and its constituents will participate in the General Strike on 2<sup>nd</sup> september 2016 at the call of Central TUs and Federations. The Resolution adopted is attached hereto for compliance by NCCOEEE constituents in true sense and spirit.
4. Sri. Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury will continue as the Convener of NCCOEEE.

Prasanta N Chowdhury  
Convener



NCCOEEE of Nellore, AP, organised bike rally from ABM Compound to vidyuth Bhavan 29 august 2016 10: 30 AM in support of 2nd September, 2016 General strike and against the privatisation of Power utilities, through Electricity amendment bill 2014.

# NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES AND ENGINEERS

## DECLARATION

22nd July, 2016

NCCOEEE, the National Forum of Electricity Employees and Engineers, met at BTR Bhawan, New Delhi on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016 expresses its deep concern and anguish at the total non-response of the Government to address the burning issues of the working people despite united struggles including series of nationwide strike actions jointly organized by the totally united trade union movement in the country and participated by crores of toiling people.

NCCOEEE notes that all the Central Trade Unions and Independent Industrial Federations Jointly held a National Convention of Workers on 30th March, 2016 at New Delhi and resolved to observe all India General Strike on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016 in support of the twelve - point demands which are (a) concrete measures to contain price rise, (b) concrete measures for employment generation, (c) strict enforcement of labour laws and stoppage of pro-employer Amendment of Labour laws (d) universal Social security cover for organized and unorganized workers and creation of National Social Security Fund and (e) stoppage of disinvestment in Central and State PSUs/ Undertakings. Further the following demands have been adopted for immediate action by the Government of India :

- No Contractorisation of work of permanent/perennial nature and payment of wages and benefits to the contract workers at the same rate as available to the regular workers of industry/establishment.- Amendment of Minimum wages Act to ensure universal coverage irrespective of the schedules and fixation of statutory minimum wage at not less than Rs 15,000/. linked with cost price index. • Remove all ceilings on payment and eligibility of Bonus, Provident Fund; Increase the quantum of gratuity. • Assured Pension for all • Compulsory registration of trade unions within a period of 45 days and immediate ratification of the ILO Conventions Nos. 87 and 98. • Stoppage of FDI in Railways, Insurance and Defence.

NCCOEEE notes with grave concern the continuously aggravating situation in energy sector as a whole as a consequence of which the right to energy of Indian People is snatched away by the Government. Series of scams related to allocation of natural resources like, Coal, Gas, Water to private profit mongers is compromising energy

security of India. Cost of supply of electricity is sky rocketing on the conspiracy of private players who have established domination into the power sector in the name of independent Power Producer, Trader, Franchises and contractors for Electricity generation, transmission and distribution. NCCOEEE demands to stop privatisation of Natural resources of energy and Franchising of revenue potential area of electricity business. Govt. is playing hide and seek game on the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2014. Discussion with NCCOEEE should be resumed for amicable settlement of the issue.

Large scale contractorisation of all activities of generation, transmission and Distribution of Electricity leads to worst possible exploitative situation for Electricity Workers. Contractors at the behest of the principal employers deny all legal dues like living wages, PF, ESI, Gratuity and other form of social security. NCCOEEE demands immediate regularization of all informal/adhoc/casual/contract workers engaged in permanent and perennial nature jobs in power sector immediately. We note that Safety and Occupational health are worst victim of neo-liberalism in the industry. Under the onslaught of Privatisation/contractualisation vis-a-vis globalization, Electricity Industry has become the most risk prone industry leading to accidental death of thousands of electricity workers every year.

This meeting of National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers held in New Delhi fully endorses the call for General Strike on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016 and appeals to each and every electricity workers, employees and Engineers irrespective of affiliations to join/support the strike and make the strike a historic success befitting to the total unity of the working class and toiling masses in the country. In addition, the day will be observed as a Day of National Protest in the entire power Industry of the country.

  
Kuldeep Kumar  
General Secretary  
Electricity Employees Federation of India (EEFI)


  
Mohan Sharma  
General Secretary  
All India Federation of Electricity Employees

  
General Secretary  
All India Federation of Power Diploma Engineers

  
Kuldeep Kumar  
General Secretary  
Indian National Electricity Workers Federation (INTEC)

  
P. Ramesh  
General Secretary  
All India Power Engineers Federation (APEF)

  
General Secretary  
TNEB/MPU

  
General Secretary, AAPP

## ACTIVITIES OF WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY WORKMENS UNION

After 5th working committee of EEFI, our union West Bengal State Electricity Workmen's Union put all its efforts to mobilize workers against all odds and legitimate demand for the electricity workers. Though the leaders & workers were attacked in the different way by the ruling party union as well as by the authority. But the workers are determined to rally behind the organizational programmes taken by our union which are as follows.

1. After 24th State Conference West Bengal State Electricity Workmens Union had its 3rd State Council meeting on 3rd January, 2016 at Mohit Moitra Bhavan, Salt Lake. Kolkata.
2. Through out the state the Demand Badge were exhibit by the all of our members & workers from 29th February – 1st March, 2016 on the issue of 'PAY RIVISION' through the Bargaining Council at the call of our union. Gate meeting & agitational programmes were organized at every District and Divisions on 1st March, 2016 on the same issue.
3. Mass sit in demonstration was organized by our union at WBSEDCL & WBSETCL HQ 'BIDYUT BHAVAN & WBPDC HQ 'Bidyut Unnayan Bhavan on 9th March, 2016 on the demand of 'PAY RIVISION' for the electricity workers through the Bargaining Council.
4. An extended secretariat meeting along with the convener of the central sub-committees had been organized on 18th January, 2016 towards organizational development.
5. After 24th State Conference West Bengal State Electricity Workmens Union, 1st Annual General Meeting had been organized and successfully completed in every District and Divisions within the period from 27th February – 20th March, 2016. All of our organizers and members were participated in the meetings.
6. After 24th State Conference of West Bengal State Electricity Workmens had its 1st Annual General Meeting of State Council from 26th – 27th March, 2016 at Bandel Thermal Power Station township, Hooghly. The Council members and the advisors of our union were attended in the 1st Annual General Meeting. The 1st Annual General Meeting of State Council inaugurated by Com. Santashri Chatterjee, the senior leader of CITU west Bengal. In the 2nd day of the meeting General Secretary of CITU west Bengal committee Com. Dipak Dasgupta, delivered his speech to the councilors & advised what action is to be taken by the electricity employees in the ensuing assembly election of west Bengal. Which had already been completed.
7. 45th National Safety week had been observed by our union in every District & Divisions in west Bengal within the period from 4th – 10th March, 2016. A seminar on the awareness of safety was organized by the union on 15th March, 2016 at Mohit Moitra Bhavan, salt lake, Kolkata. The seminar was thickly attended.
8. May day were observed throughout the state on 1st May. In every Units/Sub-Division/District & Divisions were observed the day with the respect & regards to the devotee of the working class movement.
9. All leaders/organizers & members of our union were participated in the election process and programmes in the assembly election of west Bengal for win over the candidates of left – democratic & secular forces. Near about 1300 leaders & organizers were participated in the election process directly through the booth level committee. Near about 10 lacks Rupees have been collected from our members for the purpose of assembly election.
10. Black day was observed at call of our union through out the state against TMC leaded hooligans & goons who are attack to our leaders/members and their family members as well as their property after completion the election process. Gate meeting & agitational programmes were organized at every District and Divisions against the anti people & anti employee attitude by the TMC party & their government.
11. Foundation day of CITU were observed throughout the state on 30th May, 2016. In every Units/Sub-Division/District & Divisions were observed the day with the respect & regards to the devotee of the working class & class struggle movement.
12. Voluntary Blood donation camp has been organized by our union in different District and Divisions within the period 30th May, to 15th July, 2016 to mitigate the crisis of blood for the treatment of the dying patient.

## A REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF PASCHIM BANGA SHILPA SAHAYAK Karmi UNION

Owing to vicious effect of Globalization Neo liberalization and New economic policy implemented by the Central Government since 1991 new employment of regular staff and officers all over the country came to a close in spite of increased population and workload in different Government and Non-Government including private industries As a result Casual workers/Officers were engaged on contractual basis, having meager salary and no social security.

To Combat such a situation, like other States casual workers were recruited in West Bengal, especially in the Power Sector our above Union has been established from 24<sup>th</sup> December 2000 covering all workers viz. Operation, Maintenance, Drivers, Security Guards, Meter reader & Billing Personal, Z.C.C Employees etc. The Union has been registered under CITU & EEFI and succeeded to increase membership to the tune of 10,570 as on 31.12.2015 and also achieved the following vital demands through repeated mass deputation negotiation and tripartite agreements had with the Management during Left front Government in West Bengal up to May 2011 as per Labour Act 1970-71.

1. Employment Card. 2. Minimum Wages. 3. Provident Fund. 4. Bonus. 5. P.F & Bonus even to Part Time Workers. 6. Workmen's compensation 7. Safety Training by Department and Monoranjan Roy Energy Education Centre. 8. E.S.I or Mediclaim, where applicable. 9. No retrenchment. 10. Contractor/Agency may change, but no worker to be replaced. 11. Regularization of existing workers against permanent vacancy by process on relaxation of age, considering working period and experience as per tripartite agreement held on 08/09/2006 with the management in presence of Labour Commission.

But, while recruitments were processed for absorption of technical hands viz. operator, technicians, maintenance workers etc. There was a change of Government replaced by Trinamul Congress from 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The entire situation was changed and during new employment in 2011-12 & 2012-2013 no scope were allowed to such departmental experienced hands defying the labour rules as well the proviso laid down in the constitution of India and only the outsiders were engaged through advertisement in the newspapers.

Protests were however lodged to the authority as well to the power minister West Bengal to re-consider engagement of contractual works in regular post. But still today no response from the management was made available. However, the existing workers have been united. So that none is retrenched. In certain cases on compelling situation the victim workers have been engaged in alternative vacancies due to serious resistance on the part of our Union and workmen's union.

In this context our EEFI may further move forward to press the Government to absorb such deserving and experienced hands all over the country, before dissolving contractual system.

It may be added that while the Congress Government in West Bengal during 1972-77 engaged more than 12000 workers purely on Ad-Hoc (Casual Basis) without any formal procedure, all such stuffs were absorbed in regular post by the Left Front Government headed by Jyoti Basu in west Bengal after 1977. As per tripartite agreement held with the management and unions as per instruction of the popular Government thereafter no farther contractual or casual workers were recruited, but direct regular employments continued 1990-91. The 5<sup>th</sup> State Conference of the Union were on 14.02.2016 with 300 delegates. Besides our union attended all the programmes convened by EEFI from time to time including holding Blood Donation etc.

The present situation during Trinamul Congress Government in the state is such that opposition parties or trade unions association are not allowed to work peacefully and the INTTUC (TU of Trinamul Congress) are forcing workers to join their union, unless they are often threatened to stay out off home. In some Districts huge financial punishment were impaired such as in East Midnapur, Cooch Behar etc.

In spite of all such obstruction the Union held 5<sup>th</sup> Conference successfully and started facing in survival situation and Central Committee also held working committee and secretariat meetings regularly.

As regards renewal of memberships the number increased to 10570 as on 31.12.2015 and annual levy of CITU has been paid in full upto December 2015.

## WORKS REPORT OF CALCUTTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY WORKMENS UNION

December 2015 to June 2016

After the last working committee meeting our union was engaged on the programmes of restoration of democracy in the state as well as pursuing the demands of the employees and implementation of the decisions from working committee meeting.

- 27.12.15 Brigade parade ground; We mobilised above 2000 members, a rally from V. House, the head office to Brigade Ground.
- 12.01.16 Rally of different mass organization against the money laundering scam of Sarada and other chit funds was started from HUDCO at Ultadanga to CBI campus at Salt Lake City. Our participation is considerable.
- 16.01.16 Historic programme of B.P.M.O Singur to Salboni. We also took part from Singur. We exceeded our quota.
- 20.01.16 We organized a mammoth gathering of our members in front of V. House, the head office of CESC for a deputation to the Management with 9 points Charter of demands include Bonus & pension. Com. Shymal Chakraborty addressed the meeting.
- 22.01.16 On the demand of Industry in West Bengal B.P.M.O organized the jatha. On the final day at Salboni. In favour of that jatha, a rally at Kolkata was held. We participated.
- 28.01.16 March to the Lalbazar, Police head quarters of Calcutta.
- 05.02.16 On the demand of ration for all march to FCI head office, Free school street.
- 11.01.16 A mammoth gathering Kolkata Municipal Corporation head quarters at Dharmatala on

demand of systematic distribution of ration card and ration for all.

- 19.02.16 Convention at Maullali Yuva Kendra against Electricity Bill 2014 & hike of electricity tariff. Justice Ashok Kr. Ganguly was present at the convention.
- 21.02.16 Procession against the arrest of Kanhaiya Kumar of JNU, From Dharmatala to Mahajati Sadan.
- 01.03.16 Deputation and mass rally to the chairman of WBSERC against havoc tariff rise of electricity.
- 10.03.16 Rally and Dharna of all TUs in the demand of 12 points charter of the last all India strike.
- 17.03.16 Rally on the protest against corruption of the TMC leaders, minister and MPs, from Y-channel to Sealdah Railway Stations.
- 26.06.16 Email sent to Power minister of India and Ch.Minister of Haryana, to protest atrocities on electricity workers of Haryana.

### **Our participation in the last Assembly Election 2016:**

We took decision at our executive meeting regarding the Assembly Election that we would take part in this election against TMC. We collect Money from our employees for election and took part directly propaganda of election. Finally we collected more than Rs.6.5 lacs and more than 700 members participated in the election with leave.

Within our industry we also organized 76 group meetings, besides those, number of gate meetings and hall meetings also conducted by our Union. We distributed leaflets among the employees and displayed hoardings at various important places of the city.

## CITU UNIONS IN NTPC ELECTED SOLE BARGAINING AGENCY

Farakka & Barh projects of NTPC had Election of bargaining Agent last month. CITU affiliated unions have been elected in the both the plant as sole bargaining Agent securing 64% and 77% votes respectively.

EEFI greeted the workers for their highest ever support in favour of CITU.

## BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF ASSAM STATE ELECTRICITY WORKERS' UNION

"Ensure Right to Electricity as Human Right" is the call of the 29<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of Assam State Electricity Workers' Union held with pump & gaiety at Nagaon from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> January '2016. Nearly 300 delegates from the different parts of the State attended the conference. On 6<sup>th</sup> Jan '16 evening the Delegates Camp at Dawson Higher Secondary School inaugurated by its Principal Sri Pranab Kr. Tamuli and followed by the CWC Meeting. On 7<sup>th</sup> January '16 morning the Union's Flag was hoisted by its President Sri Dipak Kr. Saha and Floral tribute to the Martyr's Colum was offered by Sri Hiranmoy Ghosh, Adviser & veteran Trade Union Leader which has followed by the delegates and there after the Delegates marched for massive procession through out the Nagaon Town shouting slogans. At 2.00 PM, the Open Session of the Conference held at District Library, Nagaon. Dr. Khageswar Buyan, Retd. Principal Nagaon College & President, Reception Committee has read out Welcome Address at beginning of the session. Sri Swadesh Deb Roye, Working President, Electricity Employees Federation of India, New Delhi addressed the session as Chief Guest. Sri Deb Roye elaborately expressed the present scenario of the Power Sector of the Country and criticized the Central Govt's anti people power policy'. Sri Satanjib Das, Jiont Convener, JCTU, Assam (CITU) addressed the meeting as Invited Speaker who has called for united mass movement for save guarding the Public Sectors-Power Sectors. Sri Tralokya Nath Dev Goswami, General Manager Nagoaon Zone, APDCL unveiled the Souvenir '**Shakti Kantha**' the voice of the ASE Workers' Union published to commensurate the auspicious occasion. In the Evening, a colorful Cultural Function organized by the Reception Committee.

On 8<sup>th</sup> Jan '16 the General Secretary submitted its Report and Finance Secretary submitted the Financial Statement which was passed unanimously after constructive deliberation. The conference adopted the 21 nos. resolutions among them 6 prime demands, 1) Stops

Privatise & Franchisee of Power Sectors, 2) Scrap Electricity Amendment Bill-2014, 3) Install State's own Power Generation Projects, 4) Regularise service of Temporary Emoployees, 5) Reconstitute Employees' Pension Trust & 6) Declare Revision of Pay -2016, which were Faxed/Emailed to the Power Minister and Chairman from the Conference. At the end, the Conference elected a strong Central Executive Committee consists of 39 nos. members comprising Sri Dipak Kr. Saha and Sri Balindra Kumar as President & General Secretary respectively for year 2016-2018.

### Organisational Activities

Biennial Conference of Assam State Electricity Workers' Union held wef 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2016. at Nagoan. Com. Swadesh Dev Roye Working President, EEFI attended as Chief Guest and addressed the open session of the State Conference (details already forwarded). After conference Several Unit /District level meeting held to build up the organizational strength, The union also took part in the working class movement with Co-ordination Committee & JCTU (CITU) and also participated in the campaign of last Assembly Election of the State for left Democratic candidates. The Union had been demanding for reconstitution of ASEB Employees Pension Fund Investment Trust (BOT) since long time and had meeting in this regard on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb and 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2016 and finally The Management bound to constitute BOT and one member nominated from our Union Vide Notification Dated 20<sup>th</sup> June '16. We are also fighting for Outsourced & Temporary Workers for regularization of their Service. The Union also perusing for Revision of Pay-2016. and on 14<sup>th</sup> July staged Dharna in front of Head Office jointly organized by NCCOEE&E, Assam Branch. Central Working Committee of the Union held on 10<sup>th</sup> July '16 at Bijulee Bhawan, Guwahati, mainly to mobilize the members for the All India General Strike on 2nd Sept '16.

## TRIPURA BIDYUT KARMI UNION

Dated, 16.07.2016

### Deceive forces activities in Tripura

Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) had announced to block the National Highway at various points on June 22. The highway number 44 is known as lifeline of the landlocked state and might hinder transportation of essential commodities. IPFT, a breakaway group of INPT, enjoys blessings and ideological boosting from NLFT extremists. At the dictate of NLFT extremists, they raised most provocative slogans for creation of separate state with the existing TTAADC. CPIM State Committee of Tripura was actively campaigned against proposed national highway blockade agitation of the IPFT. In support, we also plunge to protest rallies and street meetings across the state urging people to oppose the agitation of the tribal party to press separate statehood demand. IPFT has been demanding a separate state for 33 percent tribal population of the state.

BJP had never any strong base in the state. Only after the Congress was unseated from power at the Centre, a section of Congress followers swamped to BJP. But their communal agenda will never be accepted by the peace-loving democratic people of the state.

Other hand a section of Congress followers swamped to Trinamul Congress whereas TMC tried to come to the focus with the leadership of West Bengal TMC.

### Campaign for successful strike on September 2, 2016

The joint National Convention of Central Trade Unions and Industrial Federation called upon the working class of the country to observe a country wide general strike on September 2, 2016 against the anti-people, anti national and anti-worker policies of the NDA government. According to the call, we have already started massive preparations such as Convention, Rally with Banner, Postering and Pathasava etc. at Sub-Division, local and Branch level in our state at once to ensure that the participation of workers of our Union in the strike surpass even that in the general strike last year on the same day.

### Country-wide Protest from July 11 to July 17th 2016

In a situation where burdens on the people are being relentlessly mounted in our country, the Central Committee of the CPI(M) has called on the Party units to observe nationwide protest action focusing on price rise and growing unemployment from July 11 to 17, 2016. According to the call, the protest has been conducted alongwith local issues in the whole state of Tripura with the support of the working class. The member of our Union also participates in the schedule program at their own jurisdiction.

### Union Activities : Observation of May Day :

International Day, May Day is observing through the ages of our Union in the whole State in different level. Act of singing awaking songs in procession through the streets.

Hall sava was the main part of the program. Presence of dignitaries like Minister and many other leaders grace the occasion. In this year we also observed this occasion in a befitting manner.

### Observation of Foundation Day:

We observed the 40<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of the Union on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016 graciously like every year from 2009 followed by various social programs in the whole state in different level of our Union.

### Trade Union Class

To educate the leaders and members in regard to carrying out the activities of union easily, Trade Union class is continuous process of Union. The members attended the Trade Union class with enthusiasm.

### Purchase of Permanent office of Union.

Purchase of permanent office for our Union at Agartala City was approved in the CC meeting. Thus, Union possesses of it very shortly.

### Participation in Demonstration/Protest:

We recently participated in the program of demonstration under the banner of Tripura Employees' Co-ordination Committee (H.B.Road) at Agartala against anti-people activities of Central Govt., increasing of intolerance and communalism ideology in the country to expedite the way of destruction of unity and harmony which is under attack. Beside of this we strongly protested the various adverse recommendation of 7<sup>th</sup> CPC which is fully negative causes disappointed the employees.

### Protest demonstration in solidarity to Militant struggle of Power workers of Haryana:

On 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016, we had organised a program of demonstration/protest at Agartala in solidarity to our valiant striking Power Workers of Haryana against imposition of undemocratic draconian ESMA to demoralize the workers. About 400 members were assembled in this immediate protest at Agartala to extend moral and active support to the struggling Power Workers of Haryana against the anti-people decision adopted by the Haryana Government leads BJP. Com. Ashim Pal, General Secretary, Tripura Employees' Co-ordination Committee (H.B.Road) and Com. Santi Debnath, General Secretary of TBKU had briefing the detail of the situation among the gathering.

Beside of this, We also sent e-mail to Harayana Chief Minister/Central Labour Minister requesting for withdrawal of the draconian Rule ESMA from Power Workers of Haryana and amicable settlement of the dispute immediately.

We also circulate the Haryana struggle and development among the workers of our Union in every unit.

## WORK REPORT OF KSEB WORKERS' ASSOCIATION (CITU) FOR THE PERIOD FROM 12/2015 TO 06/2016

After the last working committee held at Guwahati on 21st & 22nd November 2015, our Association fully engaged in Tamil Nadu flood relief fund collection. We have collected an amount of Rs. 5,36,552/- and given to them.

### 1) Agitations

- a) On 18.12.2015 we had organised division level dharna to protest against neo liberal policies of congress led state government. About 8636 comrades participated in this Struggle.
- b) On 25.01.2016 another dharna was organised in front of the corporate office of KSEB Ltd raising the following demands (1) Immediately fill up the existing vacancies of workmen (2) Bifurcate section offices (3) Sanction additional Linemen posts in remote section offices (4) Cancel all the transfer orders which violated norms (5) Initiate steps for online transfers (6) Replace outdated computers and its accessories, (7) Initiate enquiry against the irregularities in the implementation of R. APDRP Scheme. (8) Rectify the defect of permit to work (PTW) system, (9) Provide necessary materials for carrying out maintenance work in section offices, (10) Sanction eligible leaves and incentives to employees etc. The Dharna was inaugurated by Com. A.K.Balan former Minister for electricity. Around of 4000 comrades participated in this program.
- c) Again on 5th May 2016, We have organised a division level dharna against irregularities (1) in the tenders of some hydel project works (2) decision to provide Board's own premises to private meter companies to sell their meters, (3) against extending the power purchase agreement with BSES Ltd in Kochi (4) against giving permission to Reliance Geo Info Com Ltd to draw their telecom cable through the electric posts owned by KSEB Ltd.

**2) Pay Revision:** It was during this period, our pay revision settlement was signed. The validity of last pay

revision agreement signed during the tenure of LDF Government at 2011 was expired on 31.07.2013. Our association has been demanding a new settlement since then and various kinds of campaign also conducted among the employees which forced the Government to start with the discussion.

In the organisation, we have formed a demand committee to prepare charter of demands. Thus prepared charter of demand was put to discussion among office bearers first, then placed it before the central committee and then it was subjected to discussion at division level general body meetings, then brought to the unit level and finally made available to all employees of KSEB Ltd. for discussion. After having, detailed discussion at all levels, the new suggestions, put forth at grass root level was brought to the notice of the CC and those changes, recommendation, suggestion etc accepted by the CC democratically was incorporated in the charter of demands and it was submitted to the concerned authorities.

On 17.02.2016 we have signed a pay revision settlement with KSEB Ltd. The employees who are in service on 31.07.2013 will be assured a minimum benefit of Rs. 2250/- in their pay. Later the process of arriving at the settlement have been detailed to all members in General body meetings.

### 3) Assembly Election Campaigns

We have keenly chalked out a campaign programme for assembly election in November 2015 itself. In the central committee meeting held on November 2015 our president com. K.O.Habeeb described the importance of winning this election for the betterment of working class.

Again our Central Committee assembled on January 2016 to discuss the modalities of campaigns. As a part of it we have decided to reach out to all the employees of KSEB Ltd. For that all the division committees and district coordination committees assembled. District level/ division

level general body meeting was completed by the end of March 2016. About 8017 members of our association participated in the Division level General Body Meetings. Almost all unit general body meeting also completed in time. In the first week of March our CC met again to follow up the progress of campaign and also to rectify short falls if any.

In the second phase of campaign we have organised as much as 143 meetings of family members of electricity employees in which 16037 people participated. About 8766 workmen, 557 women workers and 6714 family members participated in the programme. Leaders from various levels ranging from CPI(M) Gen.Sec. Com. Seetharam Yechuri had saluted the meetings of family members. Around 61 candidates including Com. V.S. Achuthanandan and Com. Pinarai Vijayan also greeted this programme. Other dignified personalities from the arena of cinema, culture, education etc have also greeted this programme in various parts of state.

State level leaders of our association varying from Com. K.O. Habeeb also saluted the meeting of family members in different parts of the state.

Besides, we have conducted evening corner meetings at 222 location in the state. It has been reported that about 10106 people participated in this programme out of which 2170 were electricity employees.

Our experience in house to house campaign during the referendum has helped us largely in the campaign for assembly election also. This time we have formed about 682 squads containing 2507 members for this purpose. They visited 13598 homes. As part of this campaign we could interact with, about 5495 members of our association, 1671 electricity pensioners. 1328 contract workers, 534 officers, 1412 Kerala Public Service Commission rank holders, 393 members of other unions and also 3442 others at their home.

We placed about 160 large hoardings, 269 banners, 3710 posters, and distributed 27,400 copies of editorial of our monthly organ 'Electricity Worker', 42500 notices, 269 hand written posters, and 5862 other leaflets as part of election campaign.

In addition we have prepared a special leaflet detailing

the developmental and pro people activities of previous LDF Government and ill effects of the anti worker activities of UDF Government in the power sector of Kerala. We have printed 3,42,500 copies of the same and distributed it in our offices, Unit meetings, corner meetings, meetings of family members, and in all assembly constituencies as well.

We have organised attractive Bike rallies and also vehicle rallies. In this campaign also about 4327 members of our union participated. They used 1475 Bikes which covered almost all nook and corner of the state. About 7978 people took part in this campaign including public. At about 1345 members of our association participated in the vehicle jadhas also.

Section level jadhas by walking was also organised in which about 569 members participated.

Apart from all these programmes, we resorted to all means of campaign, which included magic show, Folk songs, Folk art forms etc.

We have organised a district level convention under the banner of EEFI at Kasargod. Com.A.K.Padmanabhan, the President of CITU saluted the convention.

This time we have explored the possibilities of social media also. We tried SMS and whatsapp etc.

And it is needless to say that our efforts in this election campaign through the above narrated programs also have helped LDF in winning 91 seats out of 140.

#### **4) Solidarity action to Haryana Electricity Struggle.**

Our association took initiative to organise gate meetings in divisions level under the banner of EEFI to express solidarity towards the striking electricity employees in Haryana on 29th and 30th of June 2016. About 3450 members of our Association participated in this programme.

#### **5) Preparation of 2016 September 2nd All India Strike**

We have already started campaigning for the all India strike on September 2nd. Division level General body meetings has been completed. Unit level meeting are going on. The Central Committee of our association will meet shortly to chalk out further campaign.

## TELANGANA STATE UNITED ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES UNION

### Work Report (Dated : 22.07.2016)

We are hereby giving the activities and work report upto now in Telangana State.

In Telangana state, the "Telangana Electricity Trade Union Front" was formed with 13 employees unions of the electricity department. We gave a memorandum to the Management with 33 demands, mainly with the demands of the issues pending from a long time in the department and with a main demand for regularisation of 30,000 contract workers in the department.

As there was no response from the management, we went for state wide campaign by conducting district tours to strengthen our struggle on behalf of the front. We formed committees at lower levels also. We gave, a call for 'Chalo Warangal and Chalo Hyderabad' to hold dharnas at offices, with this the management came for discussions with us. We discussed the issues with the minister also.

But after discussing with the minister also they did not take any decision. So we gave a strike notice on 19.5.2016 at vidyuth soudha with 15,000 electricity employees that we will go on strike from 15.06.2016 onwards. This was a great programme.

Division level meetings in all divisions were held for the preparation of the strike. Dharnas were held at all circle offices successfully was afraid of these activities and called for a discussion on 14.6.2016. The discussions were held with the minister of the electricity department. An agreement was made with a time limit of 3 months to pay salaries directly to the contract employees. Government

told that regularising the contract workers is not possible at present and it is ready to solve some issues that Government will give an unlimited medical credit card to every employee. And is a will give an exgratia of Rs. 10 lakhs and it will see far a coverage of insurance amount of Rs. 10 lakhs. Some more demands were also agreed in the discussion. Some G.O's were also issued as per the agreement. This was a great achievement in the electricity movement.

After bifurcation of Telangana State from Andhra Pradesh, the 1st conference of TSUEEU's Telangana state was held from 19 to 20th of July. It was held in an enthusiastic atmosphere at 'Parasa Satyanarayana' Nagar of Sundarayya Vignana Kendram in Hyderabad. The General Secretary of EEFI Com. P.N. Chowdhury has inaugurated the Conference.

CITU All India Secretary Com. R. Sudha Bhaskar, CITU Telangana State Gen. Secretary Com. M. Sai Babu and other fraternal Electricity trade union leaders participated and addressed the conference.

Some organisational targets were formulated in this conference. After that a new committee was formed with 15 office bearers and 37 committee members unanimously.

Our membership is steadily increasing in our state. We were extended to all generation circles, distribution circles and transcos. Our union played an important role in the front movement. This movement was very much useful for extension of our union.

### FIRST CONFERENCE OF TELANGANA STATE UNITED ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES UNION

TSUEEU had its 1<sup>st</sup> Conference since formation of state of Telangana on 19-20<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 at P Sundariya Vijanan Kendram, Hyderabad. Delegates from almost all the districts took part in the conference. Besides other organizations of CITU, major organizations of Electricity employees and engineers of Telangana took part in the inaugural session and greeted the conference.

Com. Prasanta N Chowdhury, General Secretary EEFI inaugurated the conference. He mentioned in his inaugural speech the alarming situation in Global Energy Panorama. Whole world will be facing a crisis of silent war among imperialists on Energy Resources. In India also

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## **K.S.E.BOARD OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION**

### **Working Report from January 2016 to July 2016**

The major political development happened during the report period in our state is the change in state government. In the last assembly election held during May 2016, Left Democratic Front led by CPI(M) came to power with comfortable majority. Pinarayi Vijayan sworn in as chief Minister. Kadakampalli Surendran became the minister for Power.

Since B. Pradeep took charge of Private Secretary to the Power Minister, KSEB Officers' Association elected Shri Sathyarajan J as our new president.

### **Organization**

KSEB Officers Association is the biggest association of officers in KSEB. Present membership of the association is 2530 out of about 4350 officers in KSEB and the association is the only organization satisfying the criteria for recognition as a service organization of officers in KSEB. The strength of second largest association, Power Board Officers' Federation, a pro congress association is less than 1000. Engineers Association is another major Organization with less than 500 members. There are 8 more organizations registered as Officers' associations in KSEB they altogether have a strength less than 300.

### **Membership campaign**

During February 2016 we had planned a membership campaign. As part of this campaign Division/ Area level Squads are formed. A pamphlet describing various activities of the Association was printed and circulated. All offices of KSEB were covered by the squads and all officers were contacted. 95 new memberships were added during this campaign. During 2015 our membership was 2540. Due to retirement of Officers' about 200 membership was reduced. From newly recruited and Promoted officers about 100 came to our fold. Now altogether our strength is 2530 as already reported.

### **Vaidyuthi samvada sadas**

Another important activity of the Association during the report period was a public campaign called Viadyuthi Samvada Sadas. The program was conducted during February and March of 2016. The program was designed

as a public debate on different issues in Power Sector including power scenario in the state, policies of central and state governments etc.

Four Regional workshops were organized to train the debaters from the organization. About 250 persons were equipped with the subject to lead the debates. The debates were organized with the help of various mass and class organizations. A detailed booklet on the subject was prepared and circulated during this program. About 75000 booklets were printed and circulated. 122 debates were organized through the state.

### **Wage Revision in KSEB**

Pay revision order of Officers and the long term settlement of Employees of KSEB were expired during July and August of 2013. We were demanding fresh negotiations on pay revision from that period itself. But Government and Management was reluctant on this issue. Finally during November 2015 government had decided to appoint a pay commission for deciding Pay revision in KSEB. We had objected this move and demanded to continue the biparty negotiations for the pay revision. Since stiff resistance was mounted it was clarified the government that the commission's duty would only be to prepare a report. It was also clarified that KSEB would have negotiations with the Trade Unions and discussions with Officers' Association as usual.

During January, the commission submitted their report to KSEB Ltd. The report prepared by the commission was not acceptable. The scales proposed in the report were not reflecting even the inflation rate. It was creating pay stagnation to majority of employees and Officers. As per report there was huge disparity in pay scales with equivalent government scales. KSEB Officers' Association took a stiff stand on this issue and played a pivotal role in uniting all Officers' Organizations together. This united movement succeeded in negotiating the issues with the management. KSEB had to agree to increase the span of of Individual Scales so as to minimize pay stagnation. Scale minimum was also increased to address parity. As a result we could achieve a comfortable pay revision. The Salary of Officers' show an increase of Rs. 4000 to 17,000 per month.

### Assembly Elections during May 2016

Kerala State Legislative Assembly Elections were concluded during May 2016. KSEB Officers' Association had decided to have a campaign on various issues related to Electricity Sector as part of this Election. We had decided to meet all Officers, Employees and Pensioners of KSEB to request them to vote in the front supporting our agitations in the Sector. Squads were formed at district level with Central Committee members as leaders. A special News Letter was printed and circulated among employees and Pensioners. A total of 70,000 Thousand copies were printed and circulated.

During March 2016 District Level General Bodies of the organization were conducted. A total of 1640 members attended these General Bodies. During April Family get together were also organized. Get together were conducted Area/ District wise considering the membership strength in each district. A total of 1250 members were attended these meets. More than 3500 family members were also attended.

### New Government

The new LDF ministry had announced various programs in Electricity sector including total Electrification by 2017, converting all bulbs and CFLs to LED as part of Energy

conservation, Roof Top Solar in all governmental Buildings etc. All these programs require wide public participation. We find this an opportunity to have a good public campaign on power sector.

### Solidarity to Hariyana Struggle

In support of the struggle of power workers in Hariyana, KSEB Officers Association along with Workers' Association conducted state wide demonstrations on 29th and 30th of June 2016. Protest meetings were conducted in all District Head quarters as well as Division offices. KSEB Officers' Association requested our members to send Emails to Chief minister of Hariyana and Central Labour minister on this issue. As per reports available more than 1500 such mails were sent.

### Organization Camp

KSEB Officers' Association had planned to conduct a state level organizational camp next month at EMS Academy Thiruvananthapuram. It is decided to have 2 day residential camp comprising of 100 members. Trade union activities in new era, Globalization and trade union struggle, Kerala economy and LDF Government, Culture and communalism are the subjects selected for the camp along with power sector issues.

## REPORT FROM ASSAM STATE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY MAZDOOR UNION

1. The Union's working committee meeting convened to review the preparation of 2<sup>nd</sup> September strike. Almost all over the state union is active to make the strike a grand success. The strike notice was issued on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. The demands of the strike was explained before the workers through all branches of the union.
2. Union has taken the initiative to organize state convention at the banner of NCCOEEE Assam chapter on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. All constituents of NCCOEEE is being interacted. Posters and leaflets have been circulated among the NCCOEEE constituents.
3. The union published a booklet on Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 on the article of Com. P N Chowdhury, General Secretary EEFI. Content of the booklet is being utilized for wide campaign among the Electricity consumers and people in general. A meeting of the Central Working Committee will be convened for further action on this issue.
4. The next working committee meeting to take place in September will discuss thread bare on the issues of contractor workers and EEFI call on END CONTRACTORISATION in Power sector. Union is closely interacting with Assam State Asthayee Bidyut Karmachari Union newly formed. This union organized a convention on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2016 on the sole issue of regularization of contractor workers. Mass demonstration will be organized in front of Bijulee Bhawan on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.
5. 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the union will take place at Tezpur between 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2016. Reception committee has been formed to make the conference a grand success.

## **CALCUTTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY WORKMENS UNION POST-ASSEMBLY POLL TERROR SCENARIO IN CESC**

Terror has been spread over throughout the industry from the middle of the election result coming out on 19<sup>th</sup> May. In many places our local organizer comrades and members were brutally attacked and manhandled by TMC goons.

From 20<sup>th</sup> May entire situation in CESC and all the departments were grave. All the members other than TMC were forced to change union under severe threat and attack. Till date 16 organizers of our union in different departments of CESC were physically attacked. At present barring few places threatening and physical assaulting are going on the common members to change our union. Women workers were attacked by vulgar attitudes and utterances.

Immediately after the election result, the union office situated at the Head office of CESC was forcefully closed down by INTTUC union. Though we were able to reopen it, but it is still under threat. The union room of Budge Budge Generating Station is forcibly closed and two of our union offices out of CESC premises, at Kashipur and Metiabruj are forcibly taken over by the local TMC goons.

In general, no unions except TMC are allowed to function in the industry. CITU cannot hold meeting or any deputation on worker's demands.

The same attack is prevailing over the CITU affiliated Contractor workers union. Especially the Supervisors of this section are facing tremendous mental pressure and insulations.

CITU Kolkata District Committee has given sufficient importance on this issue and expressed their solidarity and suggested some organizational steps, which we have taken up as our next programme.

CITU West Bengal State Committee took the issue very seriously and a high powered delegation under the leadership of Com. Shyamal Chakraborty (accompanied by Com. P. N. Chowdhury -General Secretary of EEFI and three other state secretariat members of CITU) met the State Power Minister who happened to be the President of TMC union of CESC and demanded his intervention. He assured to look into the issue.

The activity of CESC management is dangerous, partisan and very much against our union. They have become order carrying doll of TMC from last few years. Trade Unions are not getting a democratic space by them. Administration is ignoring the facts of manhandling a co-worker in the office premises by TMC activists or the incidents of denying our members to enter into the offices. A stream of Show cause, suspensions are being issued at the instruction of TMC union. Unilateral decision against our union are taken in respect of transfer and promotion.

The general daily administrations are administered by the TMC leaders. This has enhanced the sense of terror among the workmen. As the normal union functioning of CESC is hampered, members are failed to keep faith on union. The management has taken this opportunity as their advantage and is implementing its programme to reduce workforce in support of TMC union and Government. CITU was fighting this onslaught and that's why it become the victim. The Management of CESC is not even giving CITU the recognition of a member of Bargaining Council.

Inspite of all these, the resistance from the union and individual members have already started. Different ways have been taken to combat the terror and onslaught. In different places of the industry our members have bravely started to protect the honour of the Red Flag.

### **Corporate onslaught in Generation**

CESC has designed to fall down its own generations. It has worst affected the Titagarh Generating Station. Instead of producing electricity in TGS which is cheaper in cost, management is interested to import power from newly established Haldia Power Company, the rate of which per unit is much higher. CESC forcefully stopped generation in TGS and importing 750 MW in scorching summer time with the support of West Bengal Government. They are trying to shutdown the plant.

Our union called a joint meeting of all the unions working in CESC, permanent or contract workers alike. TMC led unions did not response but other 14 unions of CITU, AITUC, INTUC joined an unanimously decided to protest the design of the management.

On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 all present unions demonstrated before Victoria House, the head office of CESC. The deputation demanded that a portion of the huge profit CESC was earning should be spent for the modernization of the station. The fate of near about 750 permanent or contract workers were involved with the plant. The unnecessary burden of enhanced unit price should not be thrown on the shoulders of the consumers.

A call for workers and consumers joint struggle was proposed by the gathering.

### **PREPERATION OF STRIKE**

We are preparing ourselves for the ensuing general strike on 02.09.16 inspite of the terror throughout the CESC. Campaigns are going on in every corner of CESC. We are participating central rally organized by State and district CITU. Posters are going to be pasted. Hoardings are to be hanged in different parts of our industry very soon. Group meeting are being organized throughout the industry. We are determined to make this strike a success.

## STATE CONVENTION AT THE CALL OF NCCOEEE WEST BENGAL CHAPTER

20<sup>th</sup> August 2016

State Convention at the call of NCCOEEE West Bengal CHAPTER took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 at Krishna Pada Ghosh Memorial Hall, Kolkata. The convention was conducted in support of General Strike to be held on The 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016 at the call of Central TUs and Federations. The convention also dealt the issue of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 which is supposed to be placed for decision at the winter session of the Parliament. 500 electricity workers representing Electricity Employees Federation of India (EEFI), Indian National Electricity Workers Federation (INEWF), All India Federation of Electricity Employees (AIFEE), All India Powermen's Federation (AIPF) and All India Federation of Power Diploma Engineers (AIFOPDE) attended the convention.

Subhasis Bagchi from EEFI, Arun Chattaraj From AIFEE, Tapan Bhattacharya from INEWF, Manas Sinha from AIPF and Satyaranjan Sarkar from AIFOPDE were on the chair as the members of the Presidium. Kanchan Mukherjee, convener of NCCOEEE WB Chapter placed the draft resolution, which detailed the perspective of the General Strike and 12 point Central Demands and 2 point State Demands. The State Demands include (1) Revival of Kolakata and Haldia port. 2) Opening of closed factories and revival of Sick Industries. The issue of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 and its danger was also detailed in the draft resolution. Kanchan Mukherjee gave a call to the electricity workers of West Bengal to support and to participate in 100% at the proposed strike and to make the strike a grand success. He proposed to hold conventions, gate meetings, rallies, Workers G.B., display of Posters & Banners and wall writings at the districts and at the projects under the banner of NCCOEEE w.e.f. 21/8/16 to 1/9/16 for wide campaign. Kanchan Mukherjee also requested EEFI leaderships to take initiations for the meeting of NCCOEEE at the districts and at the projects.

Subir Bhowmik, General Secretary of AIFOPDE, Samar Sinha, General Secretary of AIPF, Tapan Ghosh of INEWF, Arun Chattaraj of AIFEE and Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury, General Secretary of EEFI addressed at the convention to second the draft resolution. Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury detailed on 14 point demands. He stated despite participation of 15 crore of working class at the General Strike on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015, Modi Government is completely reluctant to pay due honor to the demands of the working class, on the contrary Modi Govt. is toeing the capitalists of the country and abroad by amulgating 47 TU acts in only 5 nos with a view to protect the huge profit earnings by the Industrialists. Game plan of the Central Govt. is to snatch away the rights of 90% working people of the country by the so called reforms of present TU acts. He expressed his firm conviction that working class will combat the sweet will of the central

govt. to serve the interests of capitalists by making the strike a grand success. Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury further stated that MIC Power Pijush Goyal assured the leadership of NCCOEEE at Kochi, Kerala that he would sit in discussion with them regarding Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014. But he did not meet us. The news of the meeting of Power Ministers of the State which was held on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at Goa has been collected from media reveals that Central Govt. will place the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 for adaption at the winter session of the Parliament. He stated moto of the Govt. is complete privatization of electricity industry. He detailed about the danger of the Bill which have to be faced by the consumers and workers as well. He cited the unique united struggle of electricity workers of Haryana at the call of EEFI against privatization of 23 Distribution Sub divisions Despite threatening by State Government to apply ESMA, jail custody, retrenchment of contractor workers, transfer, pay cuts, de-ployment of police personnel in huge numbers and over all threatenings by the goons of RSS the strike on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 was 100% successful. The farmers from the every corners of the state came forward on the street in support of the strikers. The Management was compelled to withdraw the order of privatization. He also cited the example of success by the united struggle of Telengana electricity workers, who compelled the State Govt. to make wage payment of contractor workers directly by the electricity utilities of Telengana, instead of making payment by contractors. He stated we have to go to the consumers and we have to convince them about the dangers of privatization and thus if we can achieve unity of consumers and electricity workers as a whole we are sure to regist the game plan of Central Govt. to privatize the electricity industry.

The draft resolution was unanimously passed. Prior to this convention NCCOEEE WB Chapter met on 01/08/16. As per decision of the meeting printed posters, banners were displayed throughout the state for wide campaign of the convention. Besides that as a part of campaign two gate meetings one at the Head Quarters of DVC at DVC Tower, Kolkata on 17/8/16 and other at Bidyut Bhaban (Head Quarter of WBSEDCL & WBSETCL), Kolkata on 18/8/16 were organized, where Kanchan Mukherjee, Tarun Bharadwaj, Dipak Roychowdhury, Debabrata Bindu, Swapan Das of EEFI and Other NCCOEEE leadership deliberated speeches in support of General Strike and against Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

NCCOEEE WB Chapter will meet on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 to chalk out the programme of District Conventions and People Awareness Campaign against proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

Kanchan Mukherjee  
Convener

## REPORTAGE ON 15<sup>th</sup> STATE CONFERENCE OF COTEE

The 15<sup>th</sup> State Conference of COTEE was held in Tiruvannamalai for four days, from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2016.

As a prelude to the conference, a campaign was carried out throughout the State from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2016. During the campaign, the purpose of the campaign



was taken amongst thousands of Consumers as also the electricity board employees. On the memorial day of Com A Nalla Sivan, one of the founding leaders of COTEE, commemorating the 15<sup>th</sup> State Conference, 15 red flags were hoisted in front of all the Divisional and Plan Offices of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

As a next phase of the campaign, the conference flag, from five centres of the State, flag post and martyrs torch were brought to the Conference venue.

On the inaugural day of the conference, the flag, flag post and martyrs torch were received by the leaders.

With the unfurling of conference flag, the conference proceedings started. The conference was inaugurated by Com A K Padmanaban, President, CITU. In his inaugural address, he pointed out that the 46 years history of COTEE is a history of the sacrifices made by many leaders of the organization. The efforts that were put in to organize the contract workers and making them permanent employees are historical achievements of the Organisation. Thus COTEE has been a role model for the rest of the country in organizing the contract employees. He also called upon all the participants to take all out efforts to make the

ensuing September 2<sup>nd</sup> nationwide general strike a thumping success.

In the open session of the Conference, the sister Trade Unions, viz., AITUC, LPF, AAESUI, INTUC, HMS, BMS, Engineers' Union, Engineers' Association participated in the session and greeted the conference. In their speeches, emphasis given by them to September 2<sup>nd</sup> Strike is worth mentioning.

The Conference was greeted by Com Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury (All India General Secretary, EEFI), Com.G Sukumaran (General Secretary of TN State Committee of CITU), Com P Shanmugam (General Secretary of Tamil Nadu Kisan Sabha), Com M Magalakshmi (Convenor of TN State Working Women's co-ordination committee), Com K Arumuga Nainar (General Secretary of TN State Transport Corporation Federation), Com V Lakshmanan (General Secretary of Kerala State Electricity Workers Association).

During the conference proceedings, to raise the political consciousness of the delegates, a two Seminars and a Convention were conducted as special session. The topics of these special programmes were, 'Let us know ourselves, our politics', 'Break the barriers Unify the working class', Peasants - workers Unity and they were of very much purposeful to the participants.

Two books - 'Goebbels Laughing Gujarat', 'Biography of Ho chi Minh' were released in the conference. Apart from these books, a CD briefing the history of the COTEE was also released. This CD was produced by Chennai





centre branch. A Souvenir was also released in the conference.

Resolution calling for participation by electricity employees in September 2<sup>nd</sup> Nationwide General Strike was unanimously adopted. Resolutions calling for withdrawal of Electricity Amendment Bill, Amendment to Labour Laws were also adopted. Resolutions on the

demands of the workers and employees working in the TN Electricity Board and resolutions on the demands of the consumers and farmers were also unanimously adopted by the Conference.

#### FUTURE TASK

The Conference gave a call for laying siege in front of the Head Office of TNEB in Chennai on 04-10-2016 urging the State Electricity Board to give solutions to the long pending demands.

The conference also gave a call for a Demonstration on 15-10-2016 in all District HQ.

Comrades S S Subramanian, S Rajendran and M Venkatesan were elected as the President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

On the concluding day, a massive rally and public meeting was held, in which more than 10,000 electricity employees participated. The leaders who spoke in the public meeting emphasized the need of electricity employees participating in the struggles opposing the neo-liberal policies which is detrimental to the interests of the working class and ordinary masses of the country.

## DEMONSTRATION OF WORKERS & LOCAL CONSUMER IN FRONT OF CESC TITAGARH GENERATING STATION

30<sup>TH</sup> August, Kolkata, the employees of CESC Ltd staged a demonstration in front of the Titagarh Generating station on the demand of continuing the generation of the station for the interest of the Consumer as well as for the employees.

The management of CESC Ltd has taken the decision to close down their TGS plant which is a running power station. They are interested to import electricity mainly from Haldia Energy Limited and the rest from other agencies.

At present, peak demand of electricity in the CESC area is around 2000 MW. Total capacity of indigenous generation of CESC is 1125 MW. To meet the demand of CESC area it is obvious to import 600 MW from Haldia Limited. The management have stopped the generation of power from TGS which has the capacity of 240 MW and cost per unit is Rs.3.34, though the cost per unit has of HEL is Rs.5.30. The ultimate result is that the cost has to bear by the consumers and almost 750 permanent and contractor employees are facing uncertainty too.

In this situation except 3 unions of TMC, 14 TUs of permanent employees & contractor of CESC, participated in the demonstration. District leader of CITU, AITUC, INTUC and EEFI. Most important participants are the local consumers. Employees of CESC took part from the 29 units from Budge Budge to Srirampore and Garia to Metiabruj. On that large gathering the speaker were Com. Subhas Mukherjee (Secretary of CITU North 24 pgs.), Com. Dipak Roy Chowdhury (Secretary EEFI), Com. TarunBharadwaj (Gen, Secretary of Calcutta Electric Supply Workmens Union, CITU) Com. Tarit BaranTopdar (Vice President of CESWU and All India CITU leader) Chandra Sekhar Mukherjee (INTUC, Gen sec. Of BMS), Shymal Bose (AITUC). The Meeting was presided over by Debarata Bindu (working president of CESWU). The employees and consumers demanded to continue the generation of TGS and The plant should be properly renovated and modernized. The speakers also explained the course of 2<sup>nd</sup> September's strike and take a call for all out success of the strike.

## D.V.C. SHRAMIK UNION

### Report of Struggle

It is well known to all that DVC is the multipurpose, social utility and pioneer public sector organization of independent India, which was set up for overall socio-economic development of the people of Damodar Valley region. DVC has been providing the essential infrastructures like water and electricity for industry, agriculture & domestic purpose in this region.

It has come to our knowledge that DVC management has decided to disinvest / sell out the RTPS (**Raghunathpur Thermal Power Station**) Project to **Neyveli lignite Corporation** in the name of Joint Venture, incurring loss of many hundred crores of rupees invested by DVC without any valid scientific / technical reasons keeping us in the dark. Receiving this message, a strong resentment has widely been spread among the employees of DVC. We have bitter experiences regarding JV of Bokaro Power Supply (P) Ltd. (a JV of DVC and SAIL) & Maithon Power Lt. (a JV of DVC & TATA). At present Thermal power generation is the main source of earning of DVC. It is also to be noted that DVC has the glorious and longest experience of more than six decades in the country in operating the modern Power Stations. A neo & hightech Power Stations / Units like RTPS are the vital asset of DVC as the old one become obsolete after expiry of the normal life period of four / five decades. So, in order to strengthen DVC economically we should add and retain the neo-power units. Not only that the role of RTPS will be very important for the development of the Purulia district, which is one of the most under development region of the country.

On the other hand DVC management has curtailment the existing facilities of the non-executive employees. Such as since inception of DVC same kind of service condition / policies / norms are being followed for both the executive & the non-executive employees like other Govt. organization and both of them have been enjoying the same kind of facilities. Previously i.e. before 2007 the Promotion Policy for both was same i.e. vacancy based.

In the year 2007 that policy was converted to UCP (**Uniform Career Progression**) in lieu of ACP as per GOI. Later on the DVC management decided to introduce a New Promotion Policy in place of UCP. But the

management deviated from the standing norms/principle by implementing the same only for the executive employees in the year 2012.

After a long struggle (i.e. Demonstration, Memorandum submission, Dharna, stay-in-Demonstration for one week, Human-chain/Manab-bandhan etc.) of DVC employees the Hon 'ble Chairman, DVC, assured to solve the said issue amicably through discussion with the recognized Unions. Subsequently, after a protracted discussion between the DVC management and the recognized unions a MOU was signed on 03.02.2016 regarding modalities of introduction of New Promotion Policy for the non-executive employees in line with the executive employees. But in spite of a long times has been elapsed since the signing of MOU the issue are still remain inconclusive. As a result the entire working forces of DVC are frustrated as they deprived from natural justice and victim of discriminatory treatment.

It is also mentioned here that a large number of Casual / Daily rated / contractors / Forest /SIP workers / Contract employees /compassionate/ Apprentices/ land looser have been engaged in the jobs of DVC's power generation and transmission / distribution systems. But there is no proper policy for recruitment or retrenchment of them. They are also deprived from the benefits as per laws of the land. Priority should be given to the compassionate candidates,

DVC Trained Apprentices and DVC land losers in all kinds of recruitment under DVC.

Under the above circumstances, DVC Shramik Union is going to organize further industrial action programme near future.

We are campaign throughout the Valley area regarding All India general Strike to be held on the 2nd September, 2016 also participated in the State Convention at the Call of NCCOEEE West Bengal CHAPTER on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. We are also organized a gate meeting near the Head Quarter of Damodar Valley Corporation, Where Kanchan Mukherjee, Tarun Bhardwaj Debabrata Bindu, Swapan Das, Jiban Aich of EEFI, NCCOEEE and DVC Shramik Union leadership deliberated speeches in support of General Strike and against Electricity(Amendment) bill, 20 14.

## EEFI STATE COMMITTEE FORMS IN ODISHA

12<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

To

All Office Bearers

Working Committee Members, EEFI

You are aware of our effort on expansion of organisation reported in different meetings of the working Committee since two years last along with our interaction with different Unions of the power workers and CITU leadership of Odisha. EEFI Office Bearers including our President took part in different programme with object of involving Electricity Workers of Odisha in the main stream of National movement of Electricity workers and employees with EEFI.

On 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 EEFI and CITU Odisha organized a convention demanding Right to Energy as Human Right. Electricity workers of Odisha took part in the convention from different parts of the state besides eminent personalities of the state. Convention was successful with huge participation. Following the convention, a joint meeting of all the Electricity Unions representing over 10,000 members took place. Com. Bishnu Mohanty, General Secretary, CITU Odisha presided over the meeting. Seventeen (17) Electricity Workers' Unions from Central, State and Private Power utilities together resolved to get them affiliated to EEFI. This joint meeting also resolved to form a State Unit of EEFI. A committee of EEFI Odisha was elected comprising proportionate representatives from all the unions. Names of the forefront leaders are mentioned below :

1. Com. Bishnu Charan Mohanty Chairman

2. Com. Rajani Kanta Acharya President

3. Com. Lalit Pattanaik General Secretary @  
09437402377 e-  
gs.wobsm@gmail.com4. Com. Ajay Mahapatra Dy. General Secretary  
@09861357224 e-  
aajay.am@gmail.com5. Com. Ramesh Jena Treasurer & Office  
Secretary

EEFI Odisha State Committee requested EEFI centre to include its following leaders in EEFI National Committee on completion of affiliation formalities by the respective unions:

1. Com. Lal it Pattanaik As Office Bearer with  
suitable port folio2. Com. Ajay Mahapatra Working Committee  
Member3. Com. Kishor Chandra Mohanty Working Committee  
Member

Details of the unions with membership strength, names and contact details of President and Secretary will be circulated on completion of their affiliation formalities.

President and General Secretary of EEFI extend their warm greetings to CITU Odisha State Committee for their effective contribution towards development of organization of Electricity Workers.

Prasanta N Chowdhury  
General Secretary

Contd. from .... page 23

Government is favouring private players while allocating Energy Resources in the arena of generation and legislation towards transferring revenue potential region for Electricity distribution business. EEFI along with NCCOEEE is fighting tooth and nail to foil the game plan of the Government. He mentioned the struggle of Haryana Electricity workers to teach lesson to Government TSEEU is also fighting in association with other organizations.

Fight against Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 is to be intensified in the days to come.

Com. Sudhabhaskar, greeted the conference on behalf of CITU. Conference resolved to intensify the struggle in the interest of workers as well people of the state both independently and unitedly with other organizations in Power sector. Com. Kumarachari and Com. N Kiran were elected as President and General Secretary of the TSUEEU.

## REPORT ON KARNATAKA STATE ELECTRICITY WORKERS FEDARATION (KSEWF)

On 10-08-2016 Karnataka State Committee Meeting held Soory Bhavana under the President ship of J. Satya Babu President of the Federation. Com. V. Lakshmanan the Secretary of EEFI and General Secretary, KSEBWA took part in the meeting. Com.Varalakshmi the General Secretary of Karnataka State CITU and Com.Mahanthesh Secretary of Karnataka State CITU were present. Com.Lakshmanan in his opening remark he spoke about the present scenario about the electricity and struggle conducted by the EEFI since its inception. He stressed the need for the organising of the electricity employees and contract workers. He also spoke about all India Strike on 2-9-2016 and the need for the participation of electricity workers in the strike. He also pointed out the resolution passed by the working committee of EEFI and NCCOEEE. The Secretary of state Federation Shivakumar S.M placed the report since last State Committee meeting and the report was discussed and adopted in the meeting. Agenda wise discussion:

- 1) Regarding the Registration and Affiliation of our union. The Labor Department of our State one or other plea is delaying the registration. Any costs the registration of the union will be finalized before 30-9-2016.
2. Membership: As desired the General Secretary EEFI Karnataka is to enroll 8500 workers as member of the union before the National Conference of EEFI. Campaign will start from this month onwards and fixed quota for all State Committee members. The quota for membership was divided five companies of Electricity Distribution and to the Transmission companies.
3. Participation in the nationwide strik:. It is unanimously resolved to abstain from work on 2-9-2016 and wide campaign to mobilize other workers to abstain from the work and conduct mass protest in front of the electricity offices. Strike notice should be sent all electricity office mentioning our demands and

participation in the general strike on or before 17/8/2016. The demands are mentioned in the circular of EEFI and NCCOEEE as well as other demands of our state.

4. If the Electricity companies are engaged in the direct recruitment to fill the vacancies, the meeting decided to protest the act and if the companies continue even after our protest and individual contract workers or in group approach the jurisdictional High Court and obtain stay orders from the court. The GESCOM contract workers already obtain stay orders. The individual contract workers inform the matter to the union and union will engage the lawyer and other help if any.
5. The State Committee meeting will be held regularly on monthly basis and decided to request to EEFI to entrust the Secretary of EEFI Com.Lakshmann to participate in the meeting. The next meeting of the state committee will be held in the month of September at Bangalore.
6. The State level convention of Contract Workers of Electricity will be held in the month of September at Bangalore and decided to invite the Energy Minister to the convention. The Com.Varalakshmi the General Secretary of Karnataka State CITU entrusted to conduct the meeting.
6. The 2<sup>nd</sup> State Conference of the KSEWF decided to conduct in two days on 29-12-2016 and 30-12-12-2016 at Mangalore
7. For the smooth working of the Union fund should be raised along with the membership and decided to collect Rs.300/ from each worker Rs.150/ for the membership and Rs.150/ as donation towards the struggle fund.
8. It is unanimously decided to actively participate in the 13<sup>th</sup> CITU State Conference to be held on 17-9-2016 to 19-9-2016. Organizing Secretary Com. Mahesh elected as delegate for the conference.

## KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD, LIMITED

### MASTER SCALE

17000-500/3-18500-580/2-19660-760/2-21180-905/3-23895-1115/2-26125-1365/5-32950

-1605/6-42580-1745/6-53050-2085/3-59305(32 Years)

TOTAL TIME SPAN: 32 Years

INCREMENT RATES : 500,580,760,905,1115, 1365, 1605,1745, 2085

Categories and Revised Pay Scales

Scale No.	Designation	Existing Scale of Pay	Revised Scale of Pay
1	Mazdoor Office Attendant II Sweeper III Cleaning Assistant III	8200-190/1-8390-235/2- 8860-315/2-9490-410/2- 10310-490/5-12760 (12 Years)	17000-500/3-18500-580/2- 19660-760/2-21180-905/3- 23895-1115/2-26125- 1365/3-30220 (15 Years)
2	Office Attendant I Lineman II Sweeper II Duplicator Operator II Cleaning Assistant II Pharmacist	8390-235/2-8860-315/2- 9490-410/2-10310- 490/3-11780-605/3- 13595 (12 Years)	17000-500/3-18500-580/2- 19660-760/2-21180-905/3- 23895-1115/2-26125- 1365/4-31585 (15 Years)
3	Sweeper I Cleaning Assistant I	8625-235/1-8860-315/2- 9490-410/2-10310- 490/3-11780-605/4- 14200 (12 Years)	18000-500/1-18500-580/2- 19660-760/2-21180-905/3- 23895-1115/2-26125- 1365/5-32950 (15 Years)
4	Lineman I Senior Office Attendant Clerical Attender II Skilled Technician Grade II Duplicator Operator I Line Fitter	8860-315/2-9490-410/2- 10310-490/3-11780- 605/2-12990-740/6- 17430 (15 Years)	18500-580/2-19660-760/2- 21180-905/3-23895- 1115/2-26125-1365/5- 32950-1605/4-39370 (18 Years)
5	Junior Assistant Cashier Meter Reader Junior Fair Copy Assistant Driver II Clerical Attender I Compounder Grade II	10800-490/2-11780- 605/2-12990-740/5- 16690-870/5-21040 (14 Years)	22085-905/2-23895- 1115/2-26125-1365/5- 32950-1605/6-42580- 1745/3-47815 (18 Years)
6	Overseer Confidential Assistant Skilled Technician Grade I Senior Line Fitter	11780-605/2-12990- 740/5-16690-870/7- 22780 (14 Years)	23895-1115/2-26125- 1365/5-32950-1605/6- 42580-1745/5-51305- (18 Years)
7	Driver I	12385-605/1-12990- 740/5-16690-870/8- 23650 (14 Years)	25010-1115/1-26125- 1365/5-32950-1605/6 42580-1745/6-53050- (18 Years)

8	Senior Assistant Senior Fair Copy Assistant Compounder Grade I	12990-740/5-16690- 870/6-21910-945/3- 24745 (14 Years)	26125-1365/5-32950- 1605/6-42580-1745/6- 53050-2085/1-55135 (18 Years)
9	Sub Engineer Mobile crane operator II	14470-740/3-16690- 870/6-21910-945/4- 25690 (13 Years)	28855-1365/3-32950- 1605/6-42580-1745/6- 53050-2085/2-57220 (17 Years)
10	Special Grade Driver II Senior Compounder	15210-740/2-16690 870/6-21910-945/5- 26635 (13 Years)	30220-1365/2-32950- 1605/6-42580-1745/6- 53050-2085/3-59305- (17 Years)
11	Special Grade Driver I	15950-740/1-16690- 870/6-21910-945/6- 27580 (13 Years)	31585-1365/1-32950- 1605/6-42580-1745/6- 53050-2085/3-59305 (16 Years)
12	Mobile Crane Operator I	16690-870/6-21910 945/6-27580- (12 Years)	32950-1605/6-42580- 1745/6-53050-2085/3- 59305 (15 Years)
13	Senior Foreman Senior Mobile Crane Operator Vehicle supervisor	17560-870/5-21910- 945/6-27580 (11 Years)	34555-1605/5-42580- 1745/6-53050-2085/3- 59305 (14 Years)

**b. Weightage**

- Weightage for the past service in the KSEBL Will be allowed at the rate of 0.6 % (Zero point six percentage) of the basic pay in the pre-revised scale for each completed year of service as on 31.07.2013. subject to a minimum of Rs.175/- and maximum of 15% (Fifteen percentage). In the case of employees having fraction of a year of service. weightage will be given @ 0.05% (Zero point zero five percentage) per completed month as on 31.07.2013.
- PTC employees in the KSEBL who have been subsequently regularised as Full Time Employees in the service of KSEBL will be paid weightage for their service as PTC . employees as provided in Article IX of this Settlement.
- The Weightage will be admissible only to the employees in the regular service of the KSEBL as on 31.07.2013.
- Broken Periods of provisional service in the KSEBL

will count for weightage under this clause, if it has been counted for increments under the service of the KSEBL. Time spent on leave not counted for normal increments will not be reckoned for this purpose.

**c. Fixation of Pay in the revised scale**

- The pay of an employee in service as on 01.08.2013 will be fixed in the revised scale as follows:
  - Add to the basic pay in the pre-revised scale as on 31.07.2013 the following :
    - An assured fitment benefit of Rs.2250/- (Rupees Two Thousand two hundred and fifty only) or 12 % of the basic pay in the pre- revised scale, whichever is higher.
    - 84.253% DA admissible on the existing pay in the pre-revised pay scale.
    - Weightage admissible under clause B (b) above.

## एस्मा लगाए जाने के बावजूद भाजपा सरकार की बिजली निजीकरण की मुहिम के खिलाफ ऐतिहासिक तौर पर सफल रही बिजली कर्मचारियों की दो दिवसीय हड़ताल

हरियाणा की भारतीय जनता पार्टी सरकार द्वारा बिजली वितरण निगमों की २३ सब-डिविजनों के कार्यों को निजी हाथों में देने और बिजली कर्मचारियों की लम्बे समय से लंबित न्यायोचित मांगों के प्रति घोर उपेक्षापूर्ण रवैये के खिलाफ २९-३० जून, २०१६ को हरियाणा के बिजली कर्मचारियों ने जबरदस्त सफल हड़ताल का आयोजन किया। इस हड़ताल से पूर्व प्रदेश के २५, २३३ बिजली कर्मचारियों ने ११ मई, २०१६ को सामूहिक अवकाश लेकर अपने आक्रामक तेवर भाजपा सरकार को दिखाए थे। लेकिन भाजपा सरकार ने बातचीत का रास्ता अख्तियार करने की बजाय सामूहिक



अवकाश में शामिल ७४७१ ठेका कर्मचारियों को नौकरी से बर्खास्त करने, दर्जनों नेताओं को निलंबित और दूर-दराज तबादले करके आतंक पैदा करने का प्रयास किया। लेकिन इसके बावजूद बिजली कर्मचारियों ने अपनी एकता को व्यापक करते हुए हड़ताल को सफल बनाकर सरकार को करारा जवाब दिया। एस्मा लगाने के बावजूद उत्तरी हरियाणा बिजली वितरण निगम में ९१ प्रतिशत व दक्षिण हरियाणा बिजली वितरण निगम में ८० प्रतिशत कर्मचारी हड़ताल पर रहे। बिजली निगमों में कार्यरत ठेका कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल को सफल बनाने में प्रशंसनीय भूमिका रही।

### भाजपा सरकार ने उत्पीड़न एवं दमन की सभी सीमाएं पार की :

हरियाणा ज्वाईंट एक्शन कमेटी पॉवर के आह्वान पर हुई २९-३० जून, २०१६ की बिजली कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल को कुचलने के लिए भाजपा सरकार ने उत्पीड़न एवं दमन की सभी सीमाएं पार करने का रिकॉर्ड कायम किया। सरकार ने हड़ताली कर्मचारियों का नेतृत्व कर रही ज्वाईंट एक्शन कमेटी से बातचीत किए बिना ही २४ जून, २०१६ को एस्मा जैसे काले कानून को लागू कर हड़ताल करने पर ६ माह का प्रतिबंध लगा दिया। इतना ही नहीं, दोनों संगठनों की केन्द्रीय कमेटी के ७७ पदाधिकारियों एवं सदस्यों को पाटी बनाकर प्रदेश के सभी न्यायालयों में बिजली कार्यालयों से ५०० मीटर की परिधि में धरने, प्रदर्शनों, गेट मीटिंगों, नारे लगाने, कर्मचारियों को हड़ताल के लिए प्रेरित करने पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के लिए अदालत में स्थगनादेश के लिए याचिका दायर कर दी। इतना ही नहीं, सब-स्टेशनों, उत्पादन केन्द्रों व बिजली दफ्तरों के आसपास धारा १४४ लगा दी गई। बिजली घरों व कार्यालयों पर वीडियोग्राफी करवाकर आतंक पैदा करने का प्रयास किया गया। प्रदेश के सभी बिजली कार्यालयों पर भारी पुलिस तैनात कर दी गई। भाजपा सरकार ने इस दौरान ४९६ ठेका कर्मचारियों को बर्खास्त और ४३ कार्यकर्ताओं को निलंबित कर दिया तथा २३ के दूर-दराज भेज दिया गया। भाजपा सरकार की ओर से की गई उपरोक्त तमाम घोर अलोकतांत्रिक एवं दमनात्मक कार्यवाहियों के बावजूद प्रदेश के २५ हजार से ज्यादा बिजली कर्मचारियों ने हड़ताल में भाग लेकर सरकार को मुंहतोड़ जवाब दिया।

### विपक्षी दलों ने एस्मा की एक स्तर में की निंदा

मनोहरलाल सरकार ने जैसे ही २४ जून, २०१६ को बिजली

कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल को रोकने के लिए एस्मा लगाने के आदेश जारी किए जैसे ही इसके विरोध में विपक्षी दल खुलकर सामने आ गए। कांग्रेस व इंडियन नेशनल लोकदल के अलावा सीपीएम, सीपीआईएम, एसयूसीआई (कम्यूनिस्ट) आदि दलों ने खुलकर एस्मा लगाने की कड़ी निंदा की। इन दलों के नेताओं ने सरकार को कटघरे में खड़ा करते हुए कहा कि सरकार आंदोलनरत बिजली कर्मचारियों से बातचीत करने की बजाय एस्मा जैसे काले कानून को लगाकर हड़ताल को कुचलना चाहती है। यह भाजपा सरकार का पुराना इतिहास है। सरकार पर इन राजनीतिक दलों के नेताओं के खुलकर सामने आने का भी दबाव बना। प्रदेश के प्रिंट व इलैक्ट्रॉनिक्स मीडिया ने भी सरकार के इस कदम की कड़ी निंदा की।

### क्या थे हड़ताल के मुद्दे?

भाजपा सरकार ने २३ सब-डिविजनों के ऑपरेशन एवं मंटेनेंस का कार्य अप्रैल, २०१६ से निजी हाथों में देने का निर्णय लिया। यहां बता दें कि इन २३ सब-डिविजनों से लगभग ३३ प्रतिशत राजस्व प्रतिमाह बिजली वितरण निगमों को प्राप्त होता है। यह कार्य निजी हाथों में सौंपने के बाद नियमित कर्मचारियों को वहां से दूसरी जगह ट्रांसफर किया जाना है। मीटर रीडिंग, बिलवितरण, बिल बनाना, नई लाईनें खड़ी करने आदि का कार्य पहले ही निजी हाथों में सौंपा जा चुका था। इसलिए बिजली निगमों में कार्यरत कर्मचारियों के दोनों प्रमुख संगठनों ने ज्वाइंट एक्शन कमेटी बनाकर इसका विरोध करने का निर्णय लिया। हड़ताल के प्रमुख मुद्दों में बिजली वितरण निगमों की २३ सब-डिविजनो के मंटेनेंस एवं ऑपरेशन के कार्यों को निजी हाथों में देने के निर्णय पर रोक लगाना, जनता को सस्ती एवं २४ घंटे बिजली देने के लिए ८०० मेगावाट का सुपर थर्मल पॉवर प्लांट लगाना, बिजली निगमों पड़े ३० हजार रिक्त पदों को स्थाई कर्मियों से भरना, चालु लाईनों पर कार्य करते हुए अकालमृत्यु का शिकार हुए कर्मचारियों के आश्रितों को स्थाई नौकरी एवं मुआवजा देने, बिजली निगमों में कार्यरत पार्ट टाइम, अनुबंध व डीसी रेट पर

कार्यरत कर्मचारियों की सेवाएं पक्की करने, समान काम-समान वेतन के सिद्धांत को लागू करने, कर्मचारियों व अधिकारियों की वेतन विसंगतियां दूर करने, वितरण निगमों में बढ़े हुए वर्कलोड के अनुसार पदों का पुर्नगठन करने, मुख्यालयों व फील्ड के कार्यालयों में कार्यरत मिनिस्ट्रीयल स्टाफ के प्रमोशन व वेतन के भेदभाव को दूर करने, बिजली निगमों में लागू की जा रही भ्रष्टाचार की जननी व शोषण की पोषक आऊटसोर्सिंग, निजीकरण व ठेकाकरण की नीतियों की समीक्षा करने, १९९८ के बाद लागू की गई इन नीतियों के कारण निगमों में हुए घोटालों की सिटिंग जज से जांच करवाने, निगमों में बढ़ रही दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए ठोस कदम उठाने आदि शामिल हैं।

### बिजली कर्मचारियों ने सरकार को सांगठनिक ताकत के दम पर दिया करारा जवाब:

हरियाणा ज्वाइंट एक्शन कमेटी पॉवर ने ११ मई, २०१६ को भारी तादाद में कर्मचारियों को सामूहिक अवकाश में शामिल कर अपनी सांगठनिक ताकत का अहसास सरकार को करा दिया था। लेकिन सरकार ने इसे गंभीरता से लेने की बजाय दमन का रास्ता अख्तियार किया। कमेटी ने सभी सर्कलों में दमन व उत्पीड़न के खिलाफ शहरों में प्रदर्शन किए। इसके बावजूद सरकार ने जब २४ जून को बातचीत किए बिना एस्मा लगाकर हड़ताल पर ६ माह का प्रतिबंध लगाया तो बिजली कर्मचारियों ने २५ जून, २०१६ को ही सभी जिलों में एस्मा के आदेशों की होली जला दी। सरकार पर दबाव बढ़ाने कार्यनीति के तहत हड़ताल से ठीक एक दिन पहले शहरों एवं कस्बों में मशाल जलूस निकाले गए। इन मशाल जलूसों में अन्य विभागों के कर्मचारियों के साथ ट्रेड यूनियनों से जुड़े मजदूरों ने भी भाग लेकर सरकार को कड़ी चेतावनी दी। सरकार के अलोकतांत्रिक कदमों को रोकने लिए २९ व ३० जून, २०१६ को दोनों दिन हड़ताली कर्मचारियों व अन्य विभागों के कर्मचारियों ने सड़कों पर आकर बड़े-बड़े प्रदर्शनों का आयोजन किया। बिजली कर्मचारियों ने प्रदेश के सभी विधायकों, सांसदों और

राजनीतिक दलों के अध्यक्षों को ज्ञापन सौंपकर मामले में हस्तक्षेप की मांग की।

### आम जनता को साथ लेने के लिए चलाया अभियान:

जनवरी, २०१४ में हुई ७२ घंटे की हड़ताल के कड़े अनुभवों से सबक लेते हुए कमेटी ने हड़ताल के दौरान बिजली बाधित न करने और आवश्यक सेवाओं को हड़ताल पर रहते हुए सुचारु रूप से चलाने का निर्णय लिया। आम जनता को साथ लेने और भारतीय जनता पार्टी सरकार की कर्मचारी विरोधी व निजीकरण की मुहिम की पोल खोलने के लिए एक हजार से अधिक गांवों में जन सभाओं का आयोजन किया गया। इसके अलावा सभी जिलों व खंडों में उपभोक्ताओं व कर्मचारियों के संयुक्त सेमिनारों का आयोजन किया गया। इन सेमिनारों व जनसभाओं में बड़ी संख्या में चुने हुए व पूर्व पंच, सरपंच, नगर पार्षद व निगम पार्षदों के अलावा अखिल भारतीय किसान सभा, भारतीय किसान यूनियन, सीटू, एटक, एआईयूटीयूसी आदि संगठनों से जुड़े किसानों व मजदूरों ने भाग लिया। कमेटी की ओर से ५ लाख से अधिक पर्चों का वितरण किया गया। १० हजार दीवार पोस्टर व बड़ी तादाद में फ्लैक्स बोर्डों का प्रयोग किया गया।

### किन-किन संगठनों ने हड़ताल का किया समर्थन :

सीआईटीयू की ओर से राष्ट्रीय महासचिव एवं सांसद का. तपन सेन ने हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री मनोहर लाल को कड़ा पत्र लिखते हुए हड़ताल को कुचलने के लिए किए जा रहे प्रयासों की कड़ी निंदा करते हुए निजीकरण के खतरों को रेखांकित किया और बातचीत के द्वारा तुरंत मसले का समाधान करने को कहा। इलैक्ट्रीसिटी इम्पलाई फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (ईईएफआई) ने भी हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री मनोहरलाल को पत्र लिखकर देश के अन्य राज्यों में लागू की जा रही निजीकरण की नीतियों के दुष्प्रभावों को बताते हुए दमनात्मक गतिविधियां रोकने और सौहार्दपूर्ण वातावरण में बातचीत कर हड़ताल समाप्त करवाने का अनुरोध किया। ऑल इंडिया पॉवर

इंजीनियर एसोसिएशन के चेयरमैन शौलेन्द्र दूबे ने भी अपने संगठन की ओर से मुख्यमंत्री को हड़ताल के समर्थन में पत्र लिखते हुए मसले का समाधान करने की मांग की।

### हड़ताल के समर्थन में अनेक संगठनों ने की एकजुटता कार्यवाहियां :

ईईएफआई के आह्वान पर पंजाब में ज्वाइंट फोरम ने २९-३० जून को हड़ताल के समर्थन में रोष रैलियां निकाली। सर्व कर्मचारी संघ हरियाणा व हरियाणा कर्मचारी महासंघ जो प्रदेश के अन्य विभागों के कर्मचारियों का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, ने २३-२४ जून को अपने-अपने विभागों में विरोध गेट मीटिंग आयोजित कर २७ जून को एकजुटता कार्यवाही करते हुए मशाल जलूस निकाले। सीटू, एटक, किसान सभा आदि ने कई जिलों में कर्मचारियों के साथ एकजुटता कार्यवाहियां की। हरियाणा के दो निगमों में कार्यरत इंजीनियरों ने काले बिल्ले लगाकर हड़ताल का समर्थन किया।

### सरकार ने बीएमएस के द्वारा हड़ताल को कमजोर करने के प्रयास किए :

हरियाणा के सरकारी विभागों में बीएमएस का वैसे तो कोई अस्तित्व ही नहीं है, लेकिन भाजपा सरकार राज्य में सत्तारूढ़ होने पर कई विभागों में बीएमएस बनाने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। बिजली निगमों में भी पिछले दिनों एक संगठन खड़ा करने का प्रयास किया, जिसकी सदस्यता पूरे प्रदेश में १०० से कम ही होगी। इस संगठन ने अनुसूचित जाति, पिछड़ा वर्ग कर्मचारी एसोसिएशन के साथ मिलकर सरकार के इशारे पर तालमेल कमेटी का गठन किया। इस कमेटी ने सभी सर्कलों में जाकर हड़ताल के खिलाफ पूरा अभियान चलाया और सरकार को पत्र लिखकर हड़तालियों के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्यवाही करने व तालमेल कमेटी के सदस्यों को हड़ताल के दौरान ड्यूटी करने के लिए सुरक्षा प्रदान करने की मांग की। लेकिन प्रदेश के बिजली कर्मचारियों ने इसको पूरी तरह नजरअंदाज कर दिया।

## हरियाणा के बिजली कर्मचारियों की सफल हड़ताल के बाद सरकार बातचीत के लिए हुई मजबूर, निजीकरण से पीछे हटी और कई अन्य मांगों को मानने पर हुई मजबूर

हरियाणा ज्वाइंट एक्शन कमेटी पॉवर के आह्वान पर २९-३० जून, २०१६ को राज्य में अभूतपूर्व हड़ताल का आयोजन हुआ, जिसमें एम्मा लगाने और तमाम प्रकार की उत्पीड़न एवं दमन की कार्यवाहियों के बावजूद २५ हजार से अधिक बिजली कर्मचारियों ने भाग लेकर अपनी सांगठनिक ताकत का जबरदस्त प्रदर्शन किया। इस हड़ताल का तमाम विरोधी दलों व आम जनता ने खुलकर समर्थन किया। कमेटी के नेता ३० जून, २०१६ को हड़ताल की समीक्षा करने व अगले आन्दोलन का निर्णय लेने के लिए सोनीपत में बैठक कर रहे थे तो सरकार की तरफ से २ जुलाई, २०१६ को ज्वाइंट एक्शन कमेटी को लिखित आमंत्रण मिला। जिस पर हरियाणा ज्वाइंट एक्शन कमेटी पॉवर ने हड़ताल को खत्म कर बातचीत में जाने का निर्णय लिया। इस बैठक में सरकार ने ४ सब-डिविजनों को निजीकरण से बाहर करने और बाकी सब-डिविजनों के केवल मैन्टीनेंस के कार्य का आउटसोर्स करने व तमाम प्रकार की उत्पीड़न की कार्यवाहियां बिना शर्त समाप्त करते हुए कई अन्य आर्थिक मांगों को भी मानने पर मजबूर होना पड़ा है।

### केबिनेट मंत्री कृष्णलाल पंवार की अध्यक्षता में हुई बातचीत:

हरियाणा सरकार ने हड़ताली बिजली कर्मचारियों की ज्वाइंट एक्शन कमेटी से बातचीत करने के लिए केबिनेट मंत्री कृष्णलाल पंवार की अध्यक्षता में एक कमेटी गठित की, जिसमें मुख्य सचिव हरियाणा सरकार, अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव हरियाणा सरकार, विद्युत विभाग और चारों निगमों के प्रबंध निदेशकों को शामिल किया गया। सरकार द्वारा गठित इस कमेटी ने हड़ताल से पूर्व २६ जून, २०१६ को हरियाणा निवास चंडीगढ़ में ज्वाइंट एक्शन कमेटी के साथ बातचीत की थी।

सरकार व विशेषतौर पर अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव, हरियाणा सरकार, विद्युत विभाग के अडिगल व घोर आपत्तिजनक रवैये के चलते यह मीटिंग बेनतीजा समाप्त हो गई। जिसके बाद हरियाणा ज्वाइंट एक्शन कमेटी पॉवर ६ टीमें बनाकर फील्ड में उत्तर गई और कार्यकर्ताओं की बैठके आयोजित करते हुए २९-३० जून की हड़ताल को अभूतपूर्व रूप से सफल बनाने का आह्वान किया।

सफल हड़ताल के बाद २ जुलाई, २०१६ को केबिनेट मंत्री कृष्णलाल पंवार की अध्यक्षता में हरियाणा निवास चंडीगढ़ में ३.३० बजे शुरू हुई बातचीत रात्रि १०.०० बजे तक चली। दो दौर की हुई इस बातचीत में सरकार की तरफ से केबिनेट मंत्री कृष्णलाल पंवार, अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव, हरियाणा सरकार, विद्युत विभाग राजन गुप्ता, मुख्य सचिव हरियाणा सरकार की ओर से प्रतिनिधि श्रीमती नीरजा शेखर, आईएस, हरियाणा विद्युत प्रसारण निगम के प्रबंध निदेशक विनीत गर्ग, उत्तरी हरियाणा बिजली वितरण निगम के प्रबंध निदेशक नितिन यादव व हरियाणा विद्युत उत्पादन निगम के प्रबंध निदेशक के वी रामाराव और कमेटी की ओर से देवेन्द्र सिंह हुड्डा, सुभाष लाम्बा, नरेश कुमार, कंवर सिंह यादव, बालकुमार शर्मा व वेदप्रकाश शर्मा मौजूद थे।

### सरकार ने किन-किन मांगों को स्वीकार किया:

केबिनेट मंत्री कृष्णलाल पंवार की अध्यक्षता में २ जुलाई को सरकार के साथ हुई बैठक में सर्कल की चारों सब डिविजनों को निजीकरण से बाहर कर दिया गया है। बाकी १९ सब डिविजनों में केवल मैन्टीनेंस का काम निजि हाथों में देने और आप्रेशन का काम निगम के कर्मचारियों के पास ही रखने का निर्णय हुआ। निजि कम्पनी के कर्मचारी निगम के जे ई. के

अधीन ही काम करेंगे और बिजली निगम के कर्मचारियों को सब डिवीजनो से नहीं बदला जायेगा, सरकार के निर्णयानुसार पहले यह कर्मचारी एक सब-डिविजन से दूसरी सब-डिविजनो में बदले जाने थे। निजि कंपनी के काम पर निगरानी रखने के लिये एक मोनिटरिंग कमेटी गठित की गई है, जिसमें दोनों यूनियनों के प्रतिनिधियों को शामिल किया जायेगा। अगर काम संतोषजनक नहीं हुआ तो ठेका रद्द कर दिया जायेगा। इसके अलावा मीटिंग में ११ मई को सामूहिक अवकाश व हड़ताल में शामिल होने की वजह से नौकरी से निकाले सभी ठेका कर्मचारियों को वापस ड्यूटी पर लेने, निलम्बित किये कर्मचारियों को बहाल करने, दूर दराज तबादला किये कर्मचारियों को वापस पुराने स्थानों पर लगाने, क्रमिक अनशन, सामूहिक अवकाश, प्रदर्शनों व हड़ताल में शामिल कर्मचारियों की अनुपस्थिति का लीव आफ काईड डू करने का भी निर्णय लिया गया।

#### उपरोक्त के अलावा निम्नलिखित मांगों को भी बैठक में स्वीकार किया गया:

- ◆ बिजली निगमों में ५ हजार नए कर्मचारियों की भर्ती प्रक्रिया को संपन्न करवाकर ज्वाइन करवाया जाएगा।
- ◆ आरक्षित श्रेणियों के बैकलॉग को विशेष, भर्ती के द्वारा भरा जाएगा।
- ◆ डाटा एन्ट्री ऑपरेटरों के वेतनमान में की गई कटौती को बहाल करते हुये डीसी रेट व निगम द्वारा निर्धारित वेतनमान में जो भी ज्यादा हो उसे लागू किया जाएगा।
- ◆ ठेका कर्मचारियों को दस आकस्मिक अवकाश दिए जाएंगे।
- ◆ हैड आफिस व फील्ड में कार्यरत मिनिस्ट्रीयल स्टाफ के चले आ रहे वेतन व प्रमोशन के भेदभाव को उनकी मांग अनुसार दूर किया जाएगा।
- ◆ लोकल आउटडोर ड्यूटी अलाउंस (स्लोडा) में नये वेतनमानों के अनुसार बढ़ोतरी की जाएगी।

- ◆ जेई के ग्रेड पे ३८०० से बढ़ाकर ४००० करने सहित अन्य सभी कर्मचारियों की वेतन विसंगतियों को दूर किया जाएगा।
- ◆ वेतन विसंगतियों दूर करके सातवें वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों को लागू किया जाएगा।
- ◆ दुर्घटनाओं में जान-माल के हुए नुकसान की जांच किए बिना एफआईआर नहीं होने दी जाएगी।
- ◆ वर्कलोड के अनुसार वितरण निगमों में पदों के पुनर्गठन का कार्य शीघ्र पूरा किया जाएगा।

#### किन किन मांगों का मुख्यमंत्री के स्तर पर समाधान होना बाकी है?

- ◆ पार्ट टाइम व अन्य सभी प्रकार के कच्चे कर्मचारियों को पक्का करना।
- ◆ समान काम-समान वेतन का सिद्धांत लागू करते हुए डीसी रेट ठेका कर्मचारियों का वेतनमान निर्धारित करना।
- ◆ ठेकेदारों को बीच से निकालकर ठेका कर्मचारियों को सीधे निगम के रोल पर रखना।
- ◆ पुलिस की तर्ज पर बिजली कर्मचारियों को जोखिम भत्ता देना व फ्री यूनिट सुविधा ८० से बढ़ाकर ५०० करना।
- ◆ १९९५ की एक्सग्रेसिया रोजगार स्कीम को बहाल करते हुए मृतक कर्मचारियों के आश्रितों को नौकरी देना।
- ◆ बिजली निगमों में लागू की जा रही निजीकरण, आऊटसोर्सिंग व ठेकाकरण की नीतियों को रद्द करना।

कमेटी ने आशा जताई कि सरकार स्वीकृत मांगों को लागू करने के १५ दिन के अंदर परिपत्र जारी करेगी और जिवन मूहों का समाधान मुख्यमंत्री के स्तर पर किया जाना है, उसके लिए शीघ्र बैठक का आयोजन करेगी। कमेटी ने स्पष्ट किया है कि प्रदेश के बिजली कर्मचारियों का आंदोलन स्थगित किया गया है, खत्म नहीं। कमेटी का कहना है कि जब तक मुख्यमंत्री के स्तर पर लंबित नीतिगत मांगों का समाधान नहीं

होगा, बिजली कर्मचारियों का संघर्ष खत्म नहीं होगा। कमेटी ने आंदोलन का समर्थन करने वाले व आंदोलन के समर्थन में एकजुटता कार्यवाही करने के लिए सर्व कर्मचारी संघ हरियाणा, कर्मचारी महासंघ, अखिल भारतीय किसान सभा, भारतीय किसान यूनियन, सैकड़ों की तादाद में चुने हुए व पूर्व पंच-सरपंच, निगम पार्षदों, नगर पार्षदों, सीटू, एटक, एचएमएस, एआईयूटीयूसी, जनवादी महिला समिति, एसएफआई, नौजवान सभा के अलावा इंडियन नेशनल लोकदल, कांग्रेस, सीपीएम,

सीपीआई, एसयूसीआई (कम्यूनिस्ट) आदि दलों का भी आभार प्रकट किया है। कमेटी ने तमाम दमन व उत्पीड़न के बावजूद अभूतपूर्व हड़ताल में शामिल तमाम बिजली कर्मचारियों का भी क्रांतिकारी आभार प्रकट करते हुए बधाई दी। कमेटी ने इलैक्ट्रीसिटी इम्पलाईज फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया, सीटू व ऑल इंडिया पॉवर इंजीनियर्स एसोसिएशन के केन्द्रीय नेतृत्व का मुख्यमंत्री मनोहरलाल को पत्र लिखने व कई राज्यों में एकजुटता कार्यवाही करवाने के लिए भी आभार प्रकट किया है।

## हरियाणा बिजली कर्मियों के मांग पत्र

### मुख्य मांगे :

- \* छठे वेतन आयोग की विसंगतियां दूर करते हुए ७वें वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों में बढ़ोतरी करके जनवरी २०१६ से लागू किया जाए।
- \* नई नेशनल पेंशन स्कीम रद्द करके जनवरी २००६ के बाद भर्ती हुए कर्मचारियों को पुरानी पेंशन स्कीम के तहत पेंशन दी जाए।
- \* सभी प्रकार के पार्ट टाइम व अन्य डी.सी.रेट, अनुबंध आधार पर लगे कच्चे कर्मचारियों को पक्का किया जाए।
- \* नियमितकरण तक ठेका कर्मचारियों को समान काम-समान वेतन के सिद्धांत अनुसार वेतन दिया जाए।
- \* पदों का पुनर्गठन कर नए सृजित पदों सहित सभी खाली पदों को पक्की भर्ती से भरा जाए।
- \* आरक्षित श्रेणियों के बैक लॉक को विशेष भर्ती अभियान चलाते हुए तुरन्त प्रभाव से भरा जाए।
- \* जनविरोधी बिजली संशोधन बिल २०१४ को रद्द किया जाए।

- \* बिजली का अधिकार सब के लिए मानव अधिकार बनाया जाए।
- \* सभी बिजली खरीद समझौते व सभी मैमोरैण्डम ऑफ अण्डरटेकिंग्स (MOU's) को रद्द किया जाए व प्रदेश की बिजली उत्पादन क्षमता के अनुसार पूरी बिजली पैदा की जाए।
- \* बिजली निगमों में लागू की जा रही निजीकरण, आऊटसोर्सिंग व ठेका प्रथा को समाप्त किया जाए।
- \* बिजली निगमों का ऑडिट करवाकर उपभोक्ताओं को २४ घंटे व सस्ती बिजली देने के ठोस प्रबंध किए जाएं।
- \* अनुग्रह पूर्वक रोजगार देने की नीति बहाल करके मृतक कच्चे व पक्के कर्मचारियों के आश्रितों को पक्की नौकरी दी जाए।
- \* सभी बिजली कर्मचारियों को ५००० रुपये प्रतिमाह जोखिम भत्ता दिया जाए।
- \* बिजली चोरी रोकने के लिए ठोस कदम उठाए जाएं।
- \* सरकार व हरियाणा ज्वाइंट एक्शन कमेटी पावर के बीच हुए समझौते को ज्यों का त्यों लागू किया जाए।

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 GENERAL STRIKE – REFLECTION OF WORKERS' ANGER

Hemalata

The country wide general strike on 2<sup>nd</sup> September this year was even bigger and more widespread than that held on the same day last year, as initial reports from all over the country suggest. The country wide general strike this year too was held on the same 12 point charter of demands. The central trade unions claimed a participation of 15 crore workers in the strike last year. The impact of the strike this year was so huge that even before the trade unions made any claims, the electronic media reported that 18 crore workers participated in the strike.

This gives big rebuff to the claims made by the government that it was working for the benefit of the workers and for providing them social security benefits. It is also significant that the BMS, which withdrew from the strike in the last minute in 2015, did not join the strike call this year at all. Besides, the BJP led government used everything within its capacity to create confusion among the workers and sabotage the strike. The BMS became a willing ally of the government in these efforts, declaring that it was 'withdrawing' from a strike that it has never called, but also claiming 'historic victory' for the workers. All these were nothing but manoeuvres by the BJP and the BMS, both members of the same *parivar* headed by the RSS to deceive the workers in their efforts to serve their corporate masters. The corporate media, particularly the electronic media, as usual, aired these false claims and added their might to the misinformation campaign.

But the working class of the country refused to be deceived. As the reports show, despite the call of the BMS leadership to organise 'victory rallies and meetings', BMS members were not willing to oppose the strike. In fact, in several places they joined the strike. Workers who were not organised into any unions, who joined the strike last year, as in Pune industrial area, joined the strike this time too. In several places the strike spread to newer areas encompassing newer sections of workers. In many states, not only the states that are traditional strongholds of trade

unions, but in many others, the strike turned into a bandh. This was mainly due to the massive participation of the road transport workers as a result of which life in these states came to a standstill. In many districts of Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab wore a bandh like look. Despite the attempts by the TMC government in West Bengal to suppress the strike by issuing warnings and threats to the workers, state transport buses in the state plied empty and a bandh like situation prevailed in almost all the districts. In Kerala and Tripura, as always, strike turned into a bandh.

The anger of the workers against the policies of the government was visible in many ways. Around 70000 anganwadi employees and ASHAs, most of them who were not members of any union joined the strike in Gujarat. Thousands of them participated in the demonstrations held at the district headquarters in many districts. All the workers in the minor ports of Bhavnagar in Gujarat, Gangavaram and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh joined the strike. These workers are not members of any of the central trade unions that called the strike. Similarly in many industrial clusters across the country, thousands of workers, who are not members of any union, joined the strike.

While there were a few areas like the port sector where the strike was not as good as the last time, and a few districts where the strike in the road transport sector was not as effective as last year, overall the strike was observed in many more industrial clusters and sectors and many newer sections of workers joined it.

It was not only the misinformation and misleading campaign of the government with its huge advertisements in the media aided and abetted by the BMS that the workers confronted. In several states they were subjected to victimisation, police repression and physical attacks. In Haryana 22 leaders of road transport workers' union

were arrested and the striking workers were lathi charged; police went to the residential areas where contract workers lived and coerced them to join duties. Several coal workers in Jharkhand were suspended for joining the strike. The police conducted a flag march to intimidate workers and also lathi charged workers standing peacefully near a theatre in Noida. In West Bengal CITU leader and former MP Suraj Pathak and many CITU leaders were arrested. TMC goons attacked the workers and their supporters, including women, participating in the rallies. Around 5000 workers were arrested in different parts of Assam.

The extent of the strike and the support it received could be gauged from the reports that were available till the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> September though comprehensive reports from all the states and sectors are yet to come. In several states local state level unions joined the strike. In Telangana, the TRS affiliated union joined the strike; the TNTUC belonging to the ruling TDP in Andhra Pradesh supported the strike in Telangana. Even in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, though TNTUC opposed the strike, workers belonging to it joined the strike. In Odisha the chief minister himself expressed his support to the strike when the trade union leaders met him. The Left parties openly supported the strike. Even while the BMS was not part of the strike and BMS leadership directed its members to observe 'victory rallies', local units of the BMS were not in a position to oppose the strike; in several states BMS members joined the strike.

Overwhelming majority of bank and insurance employees all over the country joined the strike. State government employees in most of the states joined the strike. Particularly noteworthy is the participation of state government employees in the north eastern states including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya etc who participated in the strike for the first time. Participation of central government employees – of the income tax employees, postal employees in particular was massive. Defence employees in several defence production units joined the strike. BSNL employees all over the country joined the strike. The strike was near total in the coal sector. Overwhelming majority of contract workers in the public sector participated in the strike. Strike among medical and sales representatives was total in almost all the states.

Scheme workers including anganwadi employees, ASHAs, midday meal workers participated in the strike all over the country. Teaching and non teaching staff of National Child Labour Project joined the strike in Bihar, Maharashtra etc. Traditional sector workers like the plantation workers, cashew, coir, and fisheries workers participated in the strike in their lakhs. Unorganised workers in beedi, construction, head load workers, auto and rickshaw drivers, street vendors, domestic workers in several states joined the strike and also participated in the demonstrations, rasta roko and rail roko. Municipal and conservancy workers, panchayat workers, village chowkidars etc also joined the strike.

In Andhra Pradesh, strike was total in Vizag steel and DCI; around 70% of workers of permanent workers in the Vizag Shipyard participated in the strike. The TTD in the holy town of Tirupati was totally paralysed. Autos all over the state went on strike. Almost all the industrial clusters including the Renigunta industrial area were closed down. In several major cities truck owners associations participated in the strike. This along with the strike of the head load workers throughout the state brought all commercial transactions in the state to a standstill.

In Assam strike took the form of complete bandh in almost all districts seriously affecting public and private transport. No oil refinery in the state functioned. ONGC remained paralysed. More than 15 lakhs tea garden workers joined the strike. All public and private educational institutions remained closed. Railway transport was disrupted due to the rail roko by the unorganised workers, peasants, agricultural workers etc.

In Bihar too the strike was turned into bandh in many districts. Road transport including bus and tempo services was off the road. Workers in several industrial clusters went on strike.

Workers in almost all the major industrial areas in NCR Delh joined the strike. Massive joint demonstrations were held in several centres. The central demonstration was addressed by the national trade union leaders.

In Gujarat, an estimated 4 lakhs workers in 22 districts joined the strike and organised demonstrations in many districts.

Strike was highly successful in Haryana including in

the Gurgaon, Manesar industrial areas. Workers in the Manesar plant of Maruti Suzuki, Honda, Hero Honda and other industrial units joined the strike and held demonstrations.

Demonstrations were held in Jammu region in support of the strike while Kashmir region continues to be under curfew. Thousands of workers from different sectors participated in the demonstrations

In Jharkhand strike was observed in industrial areas including in Jamshedpur that never participated in any strike till now. It was reported to be more massive than the strike in 2015.

An estimated 50 lakhs workers participated in the strike in Karnataka. Strike was total in the road transport sector and in all the major industries in Bengaluru and Mysore. 19 lakhs workers in the industrial clusters of Bengaluru joined the strike. Strike was total in both the units of Mico, L & T, Chenna metals, Toyota, ITC, Vikrant Tyres etc. In BEL in Bengaluru, the union affiliated to INTUC did not join the strike; despite this 80% of workers, 800 out of the total 1073 workers, more than the membership of the CITU affiliated union, joined the strike

The strike in transport sector in several cities and towns in Madhya Pradesh was total. Hamalis of agricultural mandis also participated affecting commercial transactions.

Strike was total in many private industrial areas in Maharashtra including the Pune, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Nasik, Mumbai, Solapur etc. Major industries like Ceat Ltd, Thysun Crupp, Sansonite India, Crompton Grieves, beer manufacturing units, pharma industries, liquor and textile industries were closed. Strike was total among beedi and power loom workers in Solapur.

Strike created a bandh like situation in Odisha. It was total among iron ore, manganese and coal mines workers and near total among the contract workers. Road transport including autos was totally paralysed.

Strike evoked massive response in Punjab with workers. Road transport was paralysed and industrial clusters remaining closed. Unorganised workers participated in the demonstrations in thousands.

The garment industry in Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu

witnessed total strike. Strike was also effective in the Coimbatore industrial area. It was total in Ashok Leyland, Ennore Foundries, Simpson Group of companies and all three factories of TI Group in Chennai. Workers in BHEL Trichy and Ranipet, ordinance factory in Nilgiris, defence production units in Avadi and Aravangadu were totally in strike. In Aravangadu, BMS members also joined the strike. Contract workers in Manali industrial belt MFL, ATC Tyres in Tirunelveli and TCL Lancer, in L & T, in Tyre machinery making Honey Well company went on strike.

There was bandh like situation in the state due to the total participation of road transport workers in the strike in Telangana. There was total strike in most of the public sector undertakings in the state. Strike was also total in most of the industrial clusters in and around Hyderabad. On the whole the strike was reported to be even more successful than last year.

Strike was total in Udhampur industrial area of Uttarakhand and partial in that in Haridwar. It was also total in public road transport in the state but partial in private road transport.

In West Bengal, bandh like situation prevailed in many districts despite the threats and intimidation of the TMC government and its goons. Government ran buses without passengers in the morning but was compelled to withdraw later. Jute mills were closed. Commercial activities were nominal. Educational institutions in several districts were closed. Most of the tea gardens remained closed.

This strike, the seventeenth joint country wide general strike after the advent of neoliberal policies in the country, was preceded by joint campaign that was better organised and taken up to the block and in some states lower level to reach the workers. In addition, CITU prepared campaign material to make the workers aware of the issues and their relationship to the government policies. Booklets exposing government claims were also published which were translated into local languages. During the strike the lower level committees were regularly up dated with information exposing government claims. This has helped in preventing the workers from succumbing to the confusion sought to be created by the government and the BMS.

This country wide general strike will definitely be a mile stone in the working class struggles of the country.

## RELIANCE PERMITTED TO MORTGAGE SASAN COAL BLOCK

Aug 24, 2016,

NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday approved Anil Ambani-led Reliance Power's request to mortgage coal blocks attached to Sasan ultra mega power project (UMPP) in Madhya Pradesh to foreign lenders of the plant that include banks from the US, China and Singapore, official sources said.

Earlier, the coal ministry had rejected the proposal in a letter dated May 10 to the company and Madhya Pradesh government. The decision, the letter had said, was based on views of the power ministry that there was no provision for mortgage of coal blocks in contract documents and the power purchase agreement for the project.

Upon the power ministry's objection that it never communicated such a view and the coal ministry should decide whether the coal blocks can be counted as assets for mortgage, the matter was referred to an inter-ministerial committee, sources said.

The committee last month concluded that the mortgage will not 'vitiating' any rules. It said coal blocks cannot be counted as assets for mortgage, but the mining lease can be mortgaged. The committee under the chairmanship of

ministry of power had refrained from making any clear recommendation. On Tuesday, Power, Coal, Renewable Energy and Mines Minister Piyush Goyal approved mortgage.

Reliance Power had in 2012 approached the coal ministry seeking permission to assign the mining lease of Moher and Moher Amlohri Extension coal blocks as security to lenders. The mining leases for the blocks were executed between the state and Reliance Power in September 2011.

The company told the central government that mortgage was a prerequisite for the Rs 14,500-crore debt that the company borrowed from a consortium of 14 banks led by State Bank of India -1.34 % in April 2009.

The banks that financed 75 per cent of the Rs 19,400-crore Sasan project included US Exim, Bank of China, China Development Bank and The Export Import Bank of China.

The company has claimed that Rule 37 of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 provides for securing scheduled banks by mortgaging mines.

## EEFI PRESS STATEMENT ON HARYANA

Dated 30th May, 2016

Electricity Employees Federation of India with its few lakhs members all over of the country is anguished to note that Haryana. Power corporations have unilaterally sacked 1,472 contractual and several other regular workers on the insistence of the state government. Workers have legitimate right to take part 'in a Strike within the ambit of democratic state structure assured by the Constitution of India. Haryana Power workers exercised their constitutional right on 11 May 2016, when authority of power Corporations at the instance of Government of Haryana did not pay heed to long pending demands of the Electricity Workers.

All the functioning Unions of Haryana with its forefront organisation All Haryana Power Corporation Workers' Union were forced to path of agitation against the move of the Government to privatise power sector sub-divisions. In order to cover the imprudent action on the part of the

Government responsibility of power interruption is tried to be shifted upon the workers. Around 300 Electricity Workers are now continuing relay Hunger Strike. Power Workers have rightly decided to campaign on the facts behind among the people between 4 & 13 June. They will resort to Strike Action by the end of June, if good sense is not prevailed upon Government of Haryana.

Corn K O Habeeb President and Com Prasanta N Chowdhury, General Secretary EEFI, convey warm greetings and fullest support to valiant struggle of Haryana Power Workers to protect the interest of people of Haryana. EEFI, urges upon Government of Haryana to evade confrontation with the power workers, who render immense service for the state over and above job obligation. Government of Haryana should come forward towards the path of amicable settlement.

## TALL TALKS ON ELECTRICITY FOR ALL

As many as 78% of the 18,452 inhabitable villages that the government set out to provide power to have supposedly been electrified. However, 92% of the 10,072 newly electrified villages include homes that do not have electricity.

On 23-08-2016, the government issued an update to say that 28 villages were electrified last week, as part of the ongoing mission to electrify the remaining 18,452 un-electrified villages in India.

Last week, the government missed the quota, as an average of 252 villages must be electrified per week, which comes to 36 per day, in order to reach the new deadline of March 2017. The target set out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to electrify all these villages was 1,000 days; the updated government website says the deadline is March 2017, just over 200 days away.

As many as 34 villages have been electrified per day, on average, over the past four weeks, so the project is on track to just about reach its goal on time.

The electrification process is now being closely monitored by the Gram Vidyut Abhiyanta, or the Village Electrification Engineer. There are monthly targets to be reached and a 12-stage electrification process has been established.

All 12 stages must be completed across 18,452 villages to make the scheme a success – a total of 2,21,424

milestones. Of these, 57% or 1,26,116 have been achieved, according to data on the government website.

Up to 32% of milestones achieved are in the last four stages of the 12-stage electrification process; 35% are in only the first four stages. Just 8% of electrification has reached the final stage, called “handing over villages”, at which point the village is said to be electrified.

However, to say these villages will be electrified is not to say all their residents will enjoy electricity, *FactChecker* reported in 2015. Only 10% of homes in a village are required to actually have electricity for a village to be declared electrified by the ministry of power.

Of those homes that have been electrified, quality of power is often an issue. Three-quarters of electrified homes in rural Uttar Pradesh received electricity for less than 12 hours a day, *India Spend* reported in October 2015.

The Ministry of Power's update on Monday said that the government has resolved to go on “mission mode” to complete electrification “in view of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's address to nation, on Independence Day”. During this address, the prime minister cited Nagla Fatela, a village in Uttar Pradesh, as electrified, but it was since reported that the residents of the village did not have electricity, unless they had managed to get it through illegal means.

Source- Indiaspend

## KEJRIWAL ACCUSES NARENDRA MODI IS “HAND IN GLOVE” WITH POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES

Arvind Kejriwal has accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being “hand in glove” with power distribution companies after Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung termed as “incorrect” the Delhi chief minister's allegations that he cancelled the AAP government's decision to make discoms compensate consumer for unscheduled outages.

Mr Kejriwal also alleged that the PM has asked Mr Jung to do what power companies want.

“Modiji is in the pockets of power companies. Power companies are hand in glove with Modi. Modiji asked LG on phone to do what they (discoms) say,” he tweeted.

Addressing a public gathering in Najafgarh on Sunday, he had said that Mr Jung has cancelled his government's order to make discoms pay compensation for unscheduled power cuts, alleging that centre was hand in glove with power companies.

In a statement on Monday, the Lieutenant Governor's office said that it has not asked for any specific file and not issued any fresh order on this issue so far.

“Files have been submitted to the office of the Lt Governor by the GNCTD following the Hon'ble High Court's order dated 4th August 2016,” it stated.

It further said that all such files, which have come to the Lieutenant Governor's office, are likely to contain constitutional infirmities.

The statement also quoted the high court's order on the matter: “The proceedings of the Government of NCT of Delhi, Department of Power No.F.11(58)/2010/Power/1856 dated 12.06.2015 issuing policy directions to the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission regarding disruption in electricity supply to consumers and compensation payable in respect thereof are illegal and unconstitutional since such policy directions cannot be issued without communicating to the Lt Governor of NCT of Delhi for his views.”

The Lieutenant's Governor's office further said that it is unfortunate that factually “incorrect and misleading” statements are being placed in the public domain.

“We had passed an order under which discoms would have to compensate consumers for unscheduled power cuts. They were bound to pay a penalty of Rs. 100 for power cuts extending up to one hour. 15 days ago, LG sahab called the file pertaining to this matter and cancelled this order. Modi is hand in glove with power companies. Why Modiji needed to turn down this order?” Mr Kejriwal asked.

## 31<sup>st</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ORGANIZATION (APOSHO)

Prasenjit Chattopadhyay

**As per the recommendation of the** Labour Ministers' Conference in its 22<sup>nd</sup> session held in 1962 the **National Safety Council of India** is a premier, non-profit, self-financing and tripartite apex body at the national level in India was formed. It is an autonomous body, which was set up by the Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment on 4 March 1966 to generate, develop and sustain a voluntary movement on Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) at the national level. It was registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, The board of Director is constructed with Govt. of India, Employer and Workers representative.

National Safety Council of India played the role of host of the 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference of the Asia-Pacific Occupational Safety and Health Organization (APOSHO) which was held at "Bigyan Bhavan" New Delhi from 4-7 April, 2016 to celebrate the 50 years of the National Safety Council of India. APOSHO is an international body composed of non-profit professional organizations devoted to the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases. Although full membership is given to non-governmental organizations in the Asia-Pacific region, any occupational safety and health organizations, even in the regions other than the Asia-Pacific, can join the APOSHO as associate or affiliate members. The first APOSHO Annual Conference took place in Singapore in August 1985 by the suggestion of chairperson of the National Safety Council of Australia. It was called initially "the Coordinating Committee of Asia-Pacific National Safety Councils" and later in 1992 renamed as now at the 8th Annual Conference. Members as on May 2014: 40 organizations from 23 different countries or districts. Two or more member organizations from Australia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Thailand, Vietnam, etc. respectively. Before this year in 1985 the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference of APOSHO was held in New Delhi.

The 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference of APOSHO was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of State for labour & Employment, Govt. of India Shri Bandaru Dattatreya. Including the Hon'ble president of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee, many others conveyed their message for

success the conference. The All India President of C.I.T.U Com. A.K. Padmanabhan expressed his hope to raised the issues of safety, health and environment which are of the great importance in front of the international experts in this field. He also wished all success to the conference on behalf of CITU.

The writer of this article along with Com. Laxman, the General Secretary of CITU affiliated KSEB electricity organization got the opportunity to participate in that conference as the representatives of Electricity Employees Federation of India. 15 delegates from different trade unions and federations participated in that conference. Including near about 100 delegates from 20 different countries, 600 delegates were there in the conference.

The theme of APOSHO 31 was "Safety, Health and Environment-Shared Vision, Collective action, i.e. by exchange the views regarding the Industrial hazards and way of prevention of industrial accidents and work collectively. The main objective of this conference was to discuss the different perspectives of industrial Safety, Health and Environment and spread the outcome to the lower level of the workers to make them aware about the Industrial hazards, risk and accident prevention including the way of occupational diseases prevention. Uses of technology and modern concept were also discussed in this conference.

The speakers of different countries presented their papers and discussed on current Safety & Health Issues related to Construction, Mining, Process Industries, Port & Dock and Surface Transportation. Papers were also presented on Good Occupational Health and Safety Practices, Risk Management and Prevention Culture. There were separate plenary Sessions on "Global Perspective on Policies, Programmes and Legislations related to Safety, Health and Environment and "Disaster Risk Reduction". The eminent international and national speakers shared their views and best practices and research from industries and institution during the conference.

In the Concurrent Sessions speakers presented their

papers and discussed on the following issues

- Safety in Surface Transportation.
- Port & Dock Safety.
- Safety & Health in Mining Industry.
- Fire Safety.
- Promoting Safety, Health and Environment through Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Occupational Wellness & Industrial Hygiene.
- Preventive Culture.
- Competence Development and Capacity Building for OSH.
- Construction Safety: Issues and Concerns.
- Good OSH Practice
- Risk Management
- Process Safety Management : Approaches and Advancements.

After every session there was an interaction session which was very useful. All discussions were attractive and knowledge building.

Most of the speakers emphasized on the two main reasons of Industrial Accidents, i.e.

**Unsafe Act :** - The main reasons of unsafe act are lack of knowledge regarding the specific job, Over confidence, violation of proper work procedure and adopting short cut method, violation of safety rules etc.

**Unsafe Condition:** - Lack of illumination, excessive sound, exposure to heat, exposure to vibration etc.

To eliminate these two main causes of accident we need to

- ❑ Develop safety awareness.
- ❑ Sufficient training.
- ❑ Improve the socio economic condition of the workers.
- ❑ Introduction of new technologies
- ❑ Regular medical checkup
- ❑ Obey the rules and regulation on the part of workers and employers.
- ❑ Legislative support, transparent policies and planning on the part of the Government.

An attractive exhibition was organized as a part of this conference at nearby field of Bigyan Bhavan where 35 multinational and national companies displayed their safety equipments, products and services related to safety & health and fire protection.

On this occasion some companies / institutions were awarded for their best safety practices by the National Safety Council of India.

Among all of these it is painful that the conference was mainly dominated by the multinational companies and there was inadequate opportunity to highlight the proper scenario of workers mainly of unorganized sector related to safety and health.

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## VERTICALLY INTEGRATED UTILITY TOPS FORBES LIST

A decade ago, Olea of Govt. of India pleading world Bank, IMF to unbundle SEBs was ineffective vertically integrated structure. World Bank report in 2014 appending KSEB Ltd. as best Indian power utility negated the GDI plea; Now, in the Global Plain Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) has been placed in the top of the power utiliest lift prepared by (Forbes) GOI plea once again stands futile.

Article Published in World Energy Focus 26 August, 1916 is reprinted.

KEPCO, a vertically integrated behemoth along the entire supply chain from generation and distribution to sales of electricity in Korea, the world is changing rapidly. The company, this year ranked by Forbes as the best utility in

the world based on sales, profits, assets and market value, is faced with the challenge of leading the transition to a low-carbon economy in Korea, at the same time as it has to respond to calls for more competition. With Israel, Korea is the only OECD country in which the retail power market has not yet been liberalised.

For Hwan-Eik Cho, who has been President and Chief Executive Officer at KEPCO since December 17, 2012, the direction his company has to go is clear. "At the Paris Climate Conference last year, it was understood by all participants that global warming is the most serious threat faced by mankind. We are already seeing catastrophes happen around the world."

In Korea itself the public has also become highly aware of the climate challenge and the role energy production and use plays in it. Cho says this was in part thanks to the World Energy Congress which Korea hosted in 2013. "Before then Korean people did not have a high understanding of the energy industry. Now they have become much more interested."

So what activities is KEPCO pursuing to change the Korean energy economy? Currently, says Cho, of Korea's total generation capacity of some 96 GW, 65% is derived from thermal energy, divided more or less equally between coal and gas fired power. In addition, 22% comes from nuclear power. Renewables still only make a small contribution. "We have a nationwide target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 37% in 2030. We aim to increase installed renewable energy capacity to 21 % by 2029. So we will be reducing coal power and making significant investment into renewable energy."

Cho feels more investment will go into solar than into wind. An important reason is that solar can be combined with battery storage, which is a field in which Korea is very active. "We are highly advanced in energy storage systems, fortunately. Of the top-five companies in the world in this area, three are located in Korea."

The concept of Energy Storage Systems (ESS) stands for intelligent storage technology that allows for more storage when the sun shines and dispatches more when there is less sunshine. "ESS enhances the stability of solar supplies. It is an important part of smart electricity management systems in homes, buildings and industries and eventually in smart cities. This is something we want to focus on."

With regard to nuclear power, Cho believes "Paris" was a turning point. "After Fukushima, nuclear was regarded as something to be avoided. But against the backdrop of the threat of climate change, there is now more understanding of the necessity of nuclear generation. Many countries, including China, are further developing nuclear power. So the prospects for nuclear are not bleak. But the competition will be stiff. Incidentally, an interesting market will also emerge for the dismantling of old nuclear power stations."

KEPCO is leading a consortium that is building four nuclear reactors in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and is looking for more nuclear orders abroad. The company has a substantial overseas business accounting for 8% of overall revenues and is seeking to expand that. But it is

changing its emphasis, says Cho. "We realise that there are limits to building new thermal power plants, especially coal-fired, both environmental and financial. We want to focus on what we do best: energy efficiency, smart grids, micro-grids. And we want to become more active in renewable energy overseas."

Another area in which Cho sees strong growth prospects in Korea is electric vehicles (EVs). "We are lagging behind Europe and North America in numbers, but I believe the future is bright for EVs in Korea." He notes that conditions for EVs in Korea are favourable. "We have an electricity supply with the same frequency on a national scale, so charging and recharging will be quite easy. We are very advanced in IT. And we also have world renowned battery manufacturers."

KEPCO as a company will facilitate the development of EVs actively, says Cho. "We will expand charging infrastructure, beginning on Jeju Island, which will be a carbon-free island, and then nationally." He adds that KEPCO sees "great potential" in vehicle-to-grid technology, in which EVs not only draw electricity from the grid, but also help to balance the electricity system. "We will make significant investments in this as well."

Will all these activities be enough - and be timely enough - to save the world from climate disaster? Cho is moderately optimistic, but remains cautious. "Now with the Paris Agreement we have a new climate change regime, which is very different from the regimes we had in the past, especially Kyoto. What is positive is that we see major companies, like that of Bill Gates, and major countries, like the US and China, actively participating. So in that sense I am hopeful. But the climate regime is voluntary, so it remains to be seen whether countries will live up to their commitments."

According to Cho, "we need to see whether it will be necessary to make the commitments binding after all." He also notes that it still remains to be seen how international rules on carbon trading will work out. "There are a number of issues we need to pay close attention to."

For Cho the tasks are clear. "As a publicly owned company, we carry a lot of responsibility. We have to make consistent efforts to develop new technologies, to improve our competitiveness, to respond adequately to the calls for market opening, and to make a contribution to the Korean and global economy. And we have to be a leader on climate change."