



# U.T., POWERMEN UNION CHANDIGARH (REGD.)



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## Press Release

### Powermen hold protest rally against the proposal of corporatization/ privatization of the UT Electricity Department, Chandigarh.

**Chandigarh Dated 05.08.2019:-** In continuation of its struggle, the Electricity Employees of Chandigarh under the banner of UT Powermen Union Chandigarh today i.e. 05.08.2019 hold a protest rally before the Electricity Office, Sector 17A, UT., Chandigarh. The rally was addressed by various leaders of the Union amongst them Sarv. Sh. Gopal Datt Joshi, General Secretary, Sh. Dhian Singh, Sh. Amrik Singh, Sh. Pan Singh, Raj Pal, Sh. Gurmit Singh, Sh. Darshan Singh, Sh. Ranjit Singh, Sh. Sukhwinder Singh, Sh. Daler Singh etc. etc. Sh. Raghubir Chand, President of Federation of U.T. Employees and worker, Sh. Rajinder Katoch, Sh. Bhim Sen, Sh. Ram Saroop, Sh. Vijay Singh and Sh. Manmohan Singh also addressed this protest rally. The leaders while addressing the rally strongly condemned the proposal of Chandigarh Administration to corporatize/ privatize the profit earning Electricity Department and strongly opposed the proposal of appointing the Consultant. The leaders while addressing the gathering said that the policies of Government started since nineties in the name of reforms in all the States Government, dismantled the erstwhile State Electricity Boards and replaced them into corporation and companies in the name of strengthening the financial position of power sector. For this purpose, the Government of India also released the grants in crores of Rupees and let them free to enhance the electricity tariff in arbitrary manner. Despite increasing sky high rates in tariffs and imposition of other taxes, the consumers were deprived of the required services. The quantum of loss which was only in few crores before the disbanding of boards, have now reached in many thousand crores. The examples of **Enron Company**, dismantlement of power system in Orissa, attack and killing on peoples of Andhra Pradesh and struggles of peoples of Delhi against increasing electricity rates are some glaring examples of failure of these so called reform.

The leaders further stressed upon the failure of the corporatization policies and stated that the ulterior motive of the private companies are only the money minting machines and that too at the expense of public ex-chequer. In the recent past, these companies didn't hesitate in declaring them bankrupt and compelling Govt. of India to release 1.90 Lac Crore bailout package, which is clear cut sign of failure of these policies. Now, various State Governments are reviewing their decision and taking over the Power Corporation/ company under their control. Thus, Chandigarh Administration should stop the proposal of Corporatization of profit earning Electricity Department. The Chandigarh Electricity Department is such a entity which is having no source of generation and dependent on the states and is having further large network of distribution system. The leaders stated that instead of corporatization of Chandigarh Electricity Department, the Chandigarh Administration must initiate steps to fill up many hundred of vacant posts and sufficient material be provided in the Department store to serve the Public in better way so as to provide uninterrupted Power Supply to the residents of city beautiful. The Chandigarh Administration should drop the proposal of corporatization/ privatization of profit earning electricity department otherwise the Powermen Union will be constrained to come in action and will organize a joint convention of political parties alongwith RWAs, Trade Unions and other prominent people of city beautiful. The union will publicize the issue at the level of nation and will distribute leaf lets under mass communication programme in Residential Areas, Markets, colonies and villages. The protest will culminate in the form of strike.

Issued By

Gopal Dutt Joshi  
General Secretary