

**ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES'
FEDERATION OF INDIA**

5TH ALL INDIA CONFERENCE

AUGUST 30, 31 & SEPTEMBER 1 – 2003

ANPARA POWER STATION – UTTAR PRADESH

**REPORT OF THE
GENERAL SECRETARY**

DOCUMENTS

- **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**
- **REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**
- **FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ACCOUNTS**
- **RESOLUTIONS**

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear Comrades,

Before I begin let me congratulate the Comrades of our union in Uttar Pradesh who have boldly undertaken the job of holding this Vth All India Conference of the Electricity Employees Federation of India in Anpara inspite of the constraints faced by them because of the ongoing agitation against the power sector "reforms" imposed by Ms. Mayavati Government on behalf of all of you.

Our IVth conference held at Chandigarh from April 7 to 9, 2000 was a grand success after which our organization has strengthened further. We were able to coordinate the activities of electricity employees and engineers and bring them together under the banner of National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE) to oppose the power sector privatisation. Our activities has been intensified thereafter, the details of which are covered in the General Secretary's report. The attack against the electricity employees has been intensified as part of implementation of the new power policy — "privatisation of the electricity industry".

Comrades, you know that our industry is of a special nature which has a bearing on the total development of the nation and therefore our organization has not only the responsibility of protecting the interest of the workers but also the prime responsibility of fighting for keeping the power sector development in the right direction. Therefore the activities of the federation always has been with this overall understanding. However we must admit that we could not successfully resist and arrest the disastrous changes in power policy sought to be implemented by the government of India and many state governments, since we could not muster the required strength by uniting the electricity employees of the country and the required popular support for this fight. Therefore while reviewing our work during the past three years and four months we must critically examine our activities and evolve ways and means to achieve this goal.

Comrades, let us have a short overview of the prevailing scenario of world capitalism under the imperialist led globalization through the World Bank, IMF and WTO regime. The Director General of ILO Mr Juan Somavia had noted the following in his address to the full assembly of the 91st Conference of ILO held on 3-19 June, 2003 at Geneva. To quote "The persistence of poverty is a moral indictment of our times. While there are some signs of progress, the fact remains: never have we seen so much wealth while so many continue to live in abject poverty."

Poverty is a complex, deep-seated, pervasive reality. Virtually half the world lives on less than US\$2 a day. More than 1 billion people struggle on \$1 a day or less. And an even greater challenge lies beyond what statistics can measure — poverty breeds a growing sense of powerlessness and indignity, of being unable to think, plan or dream beyond the daily struggle to survive." That is the fate of more than 300 crores of people. He further added "To be sure, poverty is a global phenomenon that occurs in every society. No nation is immune. In 20 industrialized countries, for example, over 10 per cent of the population, on average, was living below the poverty line in the mid-1990s."

The developing countries and the less developed countries the poverty ratio is well beyond 50 % to 80% while the corporate world was amassing huge wealth. In sum this is the actual result of the world capitalist economy

under the imperialist led globalisation, which has helped the concentration of wealth in developed countries especially USA. The finance capital has been used by US monopolies for short term investment for earning quick profits putting many countries in serious crisis. The US share of world industrial production rose from 23% in 1990 to 28% in 2001. While the share of weaker nations has been dwindled. This shows the fact that the capitalist globalisation has not globalised production and prosperity. On the contrary, it has spread globalisation of "misery, poverty, hunger, disease, inequality and destruction."

The myth propagated by world imperialist powers especially the US at the beginning of 1990s after the set back suffered by the socialist system that "they are out to build a new world order, a crisis free capitalist society using the modern technological (IT) revolution" is thus exploded within a very short span of time. The World capitalism today is facing a serious crisis other than contributing indescribable miseries for large majority of the world population as noted above.

Before going to the details of it, let us deal with the other facet of the building of the "new world order" the empire building which we have witnessed in the US take over of Afghanistan and the latest, the capture of Iraq by the US and their allies using their superior military might, Ignoring the world public opinion and the United Nations. It is also to be noted that US is keeping lakhs of its combat military forces ready in 137 countries of the world. Thus we see here that the so called new world order is nothing but US imperialist hegemony over the world i.e. by the single super power.

The details of the war against Iraq is well known and needs no explanation. However its peculiarities are noteworthy. Never in the history of wars such a huge world wide opposition almost majority of the population came out against it. Secondly this is the only war that the reason for war is being enquired into after the war is over. The alleged Saddam Hussein's huge stock of arms of mass destruction is not found during or after the war. The last part of the story is, the British Inter Parliamentary Commission which went into the veracity of the intelligence dossier, found that it was exaggerated and factually incorrect. The government of Mr. Bush too was forced to acknowledge and submit to the US congress that the intelligence report they relied for the attack was inaccurate. This provoked big public resentment in both these countries against the heads of governments, Mr. George Bush and Blair for going to war on false premise. The situation in Britain is getting further hot since the government is forced to initiate an enquiry into the suicidal death of Mr David Kelley, the Weapon Scientist which is going on now.

The daily growing patriotic resistance of the Iraqi people against the occupation forces with daily increasing casualties unnerves the American and British administration. They are frantically in search for roping in other countries armed forces for suppressing the Iraqi resistance in the guise of peace-keeping which also not favourably responded by many countries including India. The Government of India though rejected the request due to public pressure is still keeping its option open waiting for a suitable cover for army deployment.

The premise that Iraqi people were eagerly waiting for the overthrow of Saddam Hussein Regime and will give a warm reception to the US and British forces is proved to be a miscalculation and in reality a Vietnam like armed resistance is developing in Iraq. The demand for withdrawal from Iraq is dailing growing in Britain and US. The demand for the resignation of Mr. Blair is growing in the labour party itself in a big way and the prospect of the victory of Mr. Bush in the coming presidential election is also getting bleaker day by day.

According to the opinion polls both of these "war heroes" ratings are coming down and down.

The World economy today:

The world capitalist economy presents a gloomy scenario. The growth rate in advance economy are at a low ebb with a declining trend. Growing Budget deficits, trade imbalances, debt burdens besides deflationary virus are haunting the developed economies. The United Nations Economic and Social Survey 2003 speak of a persistence of a slow down in investment trade growth and rising unemployment. The Bank of International Settlements, in its annual report for 2003, observes that during the past year, "economic disappointments, interrelated developments in the geopolitical, economic and financial spheres held back growth and led to great uncertainty about the future."

It also said that "the weakening of the dollar may set off fundamental changes in the global economy."

The US economic growth last year was 2.5% but in the first half of this year it has come down to 1.5%. Though predicted to improve in the second half. The US budget was in surplus of 1.4% in the year 2000 is now showing a deficit of 4.6% of the GDP this year and the current account deficit crossed 5 per cent. i.e. 86.4 trillion dollars. The US federal reserve have slashed the interest rates by a quarter to one per cent on June 30th which is a highest interest reduction in the last 45 years to help the ailing US economy. The official rate of unemployment is about 6%.

The economic growth in Germany for the last three years in the average is below 1%. It is predicted that it will be negative by 0.1% for this year. The current account deficit is above 3%. The rate of unemployment is 10.7%.

French economic growth was 2.5% in the year 2002. For 2003 the estimated growth of 1.3% is again reduced to be 0.8%. The unemployment rate is 9.3%.

The Japanese growth was only just over 1% per year. They are taking many steps to ward off deflation. The Unemployment is high as per Japanese standard and it is 5.4%.

The above small description shows that the mighty US economy and the strong economies of the world are facing economic slow down and crisis. The US economic slow down force them to restrict imports, will have serious consequences in east Asia and other countries which are depending on export to US. Therefore the deceleration in US economy will have serious impact on world economy. This may lead to raising of import tariffs, creation of non-tariff barriers which will lead to increasing competition. However this will not open an escape route for the crisis which is in-built in the system.

One should not forget that the US will not find any way out. They will use their economic and military might which will be used for intensifying their exploitation of the world to get over from the present difficulties. The plunder of Iraq Oil after capturing power will be an immediate source for their revival.

In the name of meeting the crisis in the economy and in the name of improving efficiency, an all round attack against the working class is being unleashed in the capitalist countries. Closures, slashing down of employment, cutting down of wages and other privileges has become the order of the day. Reforming pension schemes by raising the contribution, reducing the benefits, stopping overtime payments, dropping tax exemption for night duty and Sunday work etc., against which the working class resistance is developing everywhere.

The developing working class struggles

The increasing working class struggles and its persistency and its developing scope and sweep in advance countries has blown up the theory that the working class struggles are in the vain due to decreasing membership of the unions.

A nationwide strike by the French Working class almost paralyzed the country on 3rd June, 03 opposing the proposal for reform in the pension system. The strike paralysed the railways and 80 per cent of flights in and out of France. The Postal workers, ambulance drivers, port workers were among others on strike. The current wave of strike is the biggest round of work stoppage since the transport workers strike which paralyzed France more than three weeks in 1995.

In Germany the workers are fighting against the governments effort to raise contribution for their health care system. On May 24th thousands of workers marched in series of rallies in Germany. The workers in Eastern Germany were protesting against lengthening of working week.

Widespread strikes in Austria on June 3rd and 6th crippled the total industrial activities. This was the biggest protest of the Austrian workers after the Second World War in which more than a million workers participated. In Britain the firemen were on strike demanding a huge pay hike while stoutly opposing the attempt to changes their working conditions.

In USA the powerful trade unions stoutly opposing the restructuring of ailing industries. On June 30th the workers picketed labour department to protesting against the administrations attempt to terminate overtime pay for 8 million workers. All the trade unions connected with AFL-CIO and others were in one voice joined in the protest against it. As per the existing law the workers are eligible to get overtime wages for working more than 40 hours a week. The overtime payment is 1 ½ times. The American workers on average were working for about 50 hours a week and therefore the effect of the cut will be result in a huge reduction in their income, and that is why the united opposition. In other parts of the world too the working class is moving against the attacks on their rights and privileges in the name of economizing production. In our case it is worthy to note the May 21st All India Strike which was an important event.

The bourgeoisie leaders have started complaining that the increasing labour militancy and the existing labour laws are standing in the way of economic growth and demanded full liberalisation of labour laws and to intensify the attack against the working class. However we have to note that the resistance of the working against these attacks are growing every where and the unity of the working class also is getting strengthened in spite of the political and organisational differences.

The developing worldwide resistance:

The adverse impact of the imperialist led globalization is being felt by large sections of the people including the working class not only in the third world countries but also in the developed societies too. Therefore different kinds of protest movements against WTO, IMF, World Bank led globalization is taking place world over. Part of it was the large scale peoples protest at SEATTLE against the WTO ministerial meeting. It has become more or less a developing phenomenon in each and every gatherings of World Bank, IMF and WTO leaders. The World Social Forum is also creating big anti-globalization platform in which the trade unions, NGOs and other organisations are becoming a part. The antiwar movement which engulfed the people globe over is definitely a new phenomenon which is of great significance. The convergence of all these creates a world-wide resistance against imperialist led globalization with an anti capitalist edge. If proper organizational and coherent objectives, if developed definitely will be a force for forcing a change in the present capitalist order. Therefore the working class as a class must close their ranks and play a leading role in this developing resistance.

Changing scenario in Latin America

A changing scenario is developing in Latin America which was a safer US preserve, is slowly becoming a thorn in their throat. The election results in Venezuela, Brazil, Equador and Argentina exhibited a new trend that the political forces which opposes the imperialist led globalization and US hegemonism was elected to power by the people. The US Government was encouraging the reactionary forces of these countries to weaken and destabilise these governments and to felicitate the over throw of the same did not meet with success.

The coop through which Mr. Hugo chavez was de-throwned with US support was defeated and brought him back to power by organising big demonstration comprising millions of supporters of Chavez among, the poor working class and the military within 48 hours. It was a big event in history. Again recently the reactionaries had organized a big strike of workers in oil industry and others to stop supply of oil and cripple the chavez government. It also has been defeated finally coming to an agreement for referendum provided 50% of the population demand it. But the steps taken by the government afterwards has strengthened its position among the people very much. Though the business and reactionary classes are still opposing it. In the early July the government imposed a mandatory 10% wage increase for nearly 3 million workers and another 20% increase will take effect from October which has brought a violent opposition from the upper stratum of the society in Venezuela and the employers have threatened to lay off workers instead of granting the wage increase. But the chavez government imposed a ban on lay-offs in industries throughout this year and thus scuttle this move. However it is clear, more and more people especially downtrodden section are rallying behind the government including the military, ensures victory for chavez

in Venezuelan referendum. The four governments mentioned above are increasingly coordinating while cooperating with the Cuban government. Thus a new scenario is developing in Latin America of significance.

These developments have to be taken note of together with the developing world wide movement and it can be safely said that the people's resistance if properly co-ordinated can challenge and reactionary forces.

The WTO Ministerial Meeting At Cancun:

The WTO ministerial meeting scheduled to be held at Cancun, Mexico from 10-14 September, 03 has attracted world attention. The WTO meeting at Doha could not find a solution for the unequal trade relations in agriculture which is adversely affecting the whole third world countries. The developed countries are financing and subsidizing agriculture in a big way while imposing restriction on the third world countries. There was also difference between United States and European Union on this question. The European Union and America had discussed mutually and some understanding is reached to take a common stand in the Cancun meeting. But it will in no way satisfy the third world countries. Therefore another 14 country understanding is reached to take a common stand in the meeting on this issue, in which India, China, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Thailand etc, to oppose the proposal put forth by the United States and European Union, a proposed alternative for the Uruguay round proposal.

Big protest demonstrations is expected to take place in Mexico too. In India protest rallies are being held by trade unions and other organizations. We must also enthusiastically join in the protest movement.

The Developing Communal situation:

The developing aggressive Communalism in the country has to be taken serious note of by the trade unions. It is one of the major dangers facing the country today. The working class if divided on communal lines the resistance to the increasing attack of the government and employers cannot be successfully countered. They are using this communal divide to further their anti-people policies the victims of which will be both Hindus and Muslims alike. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India in his independence day address has reminded the people of India that "Future generations will not remember us for how many churches, mosques, temples or gurudwaras we add, but what we do for the growth of a prosperous and safe India wedded to economic prosperity and its civilisational heritage."

What he said is true. The government of India headed by BJP a Hindu based political party is seriously implementing the IMF World Bank dictated globalization policy which I need not say goes against the interests of the Indian peasantry and workers belonging to both communities Hindus and Muslims while essentially protecting the interests of the big capitalists Indian and foreign. The dangerous consequences of aggressive communalism with a fascistic edge we have witnessed in the communal carnage in Gujarat which was a big blot on Indian society. I do not wish to go in to it in detail. However the trade unions and electricity workers should use their full might to expose this ideology of communalism sought to be developed among the people.

The attack against the working class :

The privatisation of public sector including the vital sectors of the economy, part of it was the privatization of the electric industry. The result of which is unfolding itself and the people at large are coming to realize its impact. The details of which I do not wish to deal with. The net result summarized by Com. P. Purkayastha in one of his article is worth to quote "The current power policies being followed in the country have been able to address neither the problems of shortages of supply in various parts of the country nor provide power to the people at affordable

ates. The last one decade has seen the cost of power supplied increased from Rs.1.09 in 1990-91 to Rs.3.04 per unit for 2000-01. The rise in tariff is from Rs.0.81 to Rs.2.12 in the some period with the tariff to industry at Rs.4.00-5.00 is already "one of the highest in the world." This hike in industrial tariff forced many power intensive industries to close down. This policy of privatisation will lead to further hike in the power rates for all sections of the consumers to unbearable levels. Therefore this policy has to be opposed strongly by the electricity workers together with the people of the country.

The privatization of industries, downsizing and outsourcing of employment by central and state governments will throw out of employment nearly 25-30% of the workforce in the country. The rights and privileges earned through big battles are sought to be taken away by various ways in every sphere. The latest example we have witnessed in Tamil Nadu brought to the fore how dangerous it would be? The State Government unilaterally decided to curtail the pensionary benefits and other facilities of the employees which provoked a general strike of the total employees of the state above 12 lakhs.

The government of Tamil Nadu, amended the Essential Services Maintenance Act to dismiss the striking workers with provision for retrospective effect. The services of more than one lakh employees were terminated by using this provision. I do not wish go into details. The two judges bench of the Supreme Court of India delivered a judgement connected with this dismissal case which has attracted big criticism by eminent legal experts, political parties and all trade unions of the country. The judgement declared that state government employees and other workers "have no fundamental, legal, moral and equitable right to go on strike" whatever the provocation might be. I need not say that it defies the existing laws and conventions including the ILO convention.

This created a quite new situation in the country leaving the workers defenceless against the attack of employers whether government or private which in other words imposes slavery on the Indian working class.

The trade unions of the country as a whole disapproved this decision of the Supreme Court and decided to go for a countrywide big agitation against it in which naturally the electricity workers will be a part.

Comrades, before I conclude I wish to invite your attention to coming five state assembly elections and the coming parliamentary elections next year for which all the political parties have started hectic preparations. The experience of the working class is that the BJP led government at the centre and the congress led state governments and the state government led by Jayalalita, Chandra Babu Naidu and Ms Mayavati etc. are competing each other in the implementation of the LPG policies and are attacking the working class left and right.

Except in Bengal and Tripura this is true. These left-led governments are following different policies though within the constraints of the Indian constitution tries to protect the interests of the people and the working class without blindly following the policies of the central government and world bank dictates.

Therefore Comrades in the coming election we have to choose the candidates and parties which are pledged to protect the interests of the people and working class.

Finally I wish to restate here that our activities should be streamlined to make the fight against privatisation effective by mobilising all sections of the people besides the working class. We pledge to continue the fight against imperialist aggression and the imposition of its hegemony over the world and enthusiastically join in the fight for democracy and freedom. The fight against communal and divisive forces is a must since it disrupts our unity and the unity of the nation as a whole.

(E. BALANANDAN)

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Comrades,

1.1 According to our constitution, the Annual Conference should have been held after the interval of two years. However despite our best efforts we could not hold the conference, due to unavoidable circumstances. This is lapse on our part due to circumstances beyond our control. I hope the comrades will appreciate the circumstances under which this constitutional obligation could not be fulfilled.

Since the fourth conference of EEFI held at Chandigarh (Punjab) on April 7-9, 2000, several important developments have taken place in national and international arena which have serious bearing on the trade union movement and the people of India. A proper assessment of these development is imperative for us to decide our approach to working class movement so as to enable us an effective role in the drastically new changing situation.

1.2 Homage: At the outset of this conference, we have paid homage to martyrs and departed leaders whose contributions to the social progress will continue to inspire us in our activities. We have already placed on the agenda to carry forward the unfinished task that they left for us to complete. Our organization besides others also lost two of our senior leaders whose contributions to EEFI was immense.

We lost Com. D. Janakiraman, the founding General Secretary of EEFI since its inception till IVth Annual Conference. He was also the member of control commission of CPI(M). Despite his busy schedule as a member of control commission, he was keen to find time for the trade union activities. His remarkable contribution in strengthening of EEFI affiliates in Tamil Nadu was witnessed by all of us. His outspoken self-critical observations about the weaknesses of the organisations will always be remembered. His simple living and un-assuming behaviour endeared him amongst all who knew him.

Com. S.K.M. Patro, worked tirelessly to build movements of the workers in Orissa power industry. He was consistently championing the cause of electricity workers and united struggle of electricity employees and engineers in Orissa Power Sector.

The passing away of these stalwarts created a big void, which is extremely difficult to fill in. While paying homage to these departed leaders, let us take a pledge to strengthen the revolutionary movement for which they laid down their lives.

1.3 Our President Com. E. Balanandan, in his presidential address has already covered, the international developments and I need not repeat them in my report. I, therefore, propose to mention in brief the international developments and deal with the national developments during the last 3 years, so that we can pool our collective experience and evolve common understanding on these developments.

2. THE INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO:

2.1 As noted at the outset the period since the fourth conference of the EEFI has witnessed many important developments, which have serious bearing on the working class and democratic movement, not only in our country but also all over the globe. We noted at IEMO, Kochi the growing recessionary trend in the world economy reflected in the gradual deepening of the crisis of the world capitalist system. In this background, the imperialist powers became more aggressive in their design to establish their political and economic hegemony over the entire globe. On the one hand, they sought to suppress any dissent over their hegemonic design from any corner of the globe by brutal display of military power. On the other hand, they also imposed on the developing countries, simultaneous machinations in various forms in the economic plane, through the institutions of World Bank, IMF and WTO and other multilateral agencies. The developments in the intervening period reiterated the same trend more profoundly.

The events following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon on September 11 had brought before the entire world more prominently the crude, inhuman and atrocious face of both the terrorism and imperialism, face of both massacre and dominance, one supplementing the other.

But, one significant aspect must be borne in mind. While the people all over the world, even within USA itself, condemned the genocidal war on Afghanistan, the Governments in India and Pakistan, both run by fundamentalist forces, competed with each other in displaying their servility to the US bosses. But, the people of both the countries expressed their strong disapproval through massive anti-US demonstrations.

3. NATIONAL SITUATION

3.1 It is important to take note of the increasing servility of the ruling BJP led NDA combine to the US imperialists. While, in the name of economic liberalization, the Govt. of India is continuously surrendering the vital interests of the national economy to them, on the political front as well, they are gradually going on the lap of imperialist camp, betraying the position of non-alignment. Even on Kashmir situation attempts are being made to impose a US sponsored solution on the vexed question. India's Home Minister LK Advani went to the extent of visiting the CIA headquarters and developed intelligence links with the US imperialism. The visit of Deputy Chief of CIA and talks with RAW officials showed the extent to which NDA government went to side with imperialism. The Vajpayee Government in its eagerness for a virtual surrender to US hegemonic design, has repeatedly stressed the concept of strategic alliance with US.

3.2 Terrorist Attack on Parliament: The terrorist attack on the J&K Assembly and Indian Parliament showed utter laxity of the security measures by the Government of India. The suicide squads could penetrate in the security wing of the Government and create an atmosphere of terror. The imperialist agencies have been financing even Hindu chauvinists' outfits. The NDA Government, however, purposefully ignored the imperialist machinations in India. It is helping the imperialist agencies indulging infiltration of CIA in the name of cooperation and joint exercise, to allow their further inroads for destabilising the situation in India. The entire world knows the CIA's role in pampering and promoting insurgency and terrorist activities in various countries of the world to suit US political interests. The BJP led Govt. refuses to recognize the reality. Their nasty design is to use the event of attack on Parliament in maligning minority community as a whole. And they are justifying authoritarian laws, which has exposed the unprincipled opportunist character of the ruling combine, totally unconcerned about the national interests.

3.3 **DRACONIAN POTO** :The Vajpayee government, in the name of countering terrorism, promulgated the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance taking arbitrary authoritarian powers in the hands of the state, sweeping powers to detain persons without trial and banning organizations of its dislike. The BJP used the ordinance against minority organizations, while Hindu Chauvinist terrorist organizations have been given full freedom to carry forward their terrorist activities. VHP and Bajrang Dal openly campaigned in support of murderous atrocities against the minorities but the NDA government did not take any action against them. Despite stiff opposition in Parliament, the BJP Govt. got the POTO Bill passed in a joint session of the Parliament. The US Government spokesman immediately welcomed the passing of the POTA. It shows the interest taken by imperialist agencies to enact such undemocratic legislation in India.

It has been the experience of trade union movement that DIR, ESMA, MISA, NSA were recklessly used

against trade unions, though they were introduced in the name of defending the security and integrity of the nation. TU movement will have to continue to unleash vigorous campaign and fight against this black law.

3.4 UGLY RISE OF COMMUNALISM : The horrendous crimes that have perpetrated by the sangh parivar outfits, in the aftermath of Godhra incident and other issues in Gujarat carnage points out to what extent VHP, Bajrang Dal and other RSS outfits or in that matter the BJP itself can go to achieve their Hindutva agenda and pursue their political design.

It is the duty of the trade union movement to expose the heinous criminal design of the BJP-RSS bandwagon through vigorous grass-root level campaign, alongwith their effort to unite the working class in the struggle against anti-people policies of the BJP led NDA Govt. The TU movement in India must mount their vigilance and campaign to defeat the evil designs of communal forces so that class unity is preserved, secular fabric of India can be saved and India's image is restored in the world.

3.4 CORRUPTION GALORE: Several financial scandals have come to light, most serious ones among them have been reported in the Ministry of Defence. Though George Fernandes had to resign as Defence Minister following Tehelka expose, Vajpayee had taken him back in the Cabinet even though the committee appointed in this case is yet to complete the enquiry. Subsequently also, a number of scams and scandals, mostly related to defence purchases like coffin and ammunition etc., besides scams in share market and distress-sale of public sector units, were witnessed, one after another, with the direct complicity of the BJP-NDA Ministers.

3.5 ROLE OF BJP ALLIES: Though some of the secular allies of NDA Govt. condemned Gujarat killings and some of them demanded Modi's ouster, these partners failed to take a firm stand against BJP carrying out their Hindutva agenda. In spite of talking time and again about NDA agenda, the BJP has been so long pursuing its communal agenda through VHP, Bajrang Dal and other RSS wings. From their Goa conclave, they came out more openly with their communal design. Some of the NDA allies also criticize certain economy related decisions of the Govt., including the latest budget proposals.

BJP could successfully carry forward their hidden agenda due to the opportunist role of the non-BJP allies in NDA. They wanted to stick to power at any cost and hence they do not desire to have a downfall of Vajpayee government. Though the trade union wings of these parties openly came out against NDA Government economic policies, these parties were supporting BJP policies due to their selfish motive. The role of these parties for the present situation should be taken into consideration by the trade union movement during the struggle against the NDA Government policies. Consistent united working class action and massive countrywide mobilisation against the policies of the NDA Govt. can alone expose the notoriety of this opportunist political combine and create condition for ending the disastrous regime.

Though the BJP led NDA government was swearing by the national agenda for governance put out on behalf of its coalition, the BJP ministers did everything to push through the saffron agenda surreptitiously. The outfits of Sangh Parivar stepped up their attack against minority and even resorted to cultural terrorism. History is being repeatedly destroyed while safronisation of education in the agenda. We have already seen how communalism is eating the vitals of our political fibre. The servility of Vajpayee towards US imperialism is bringing our national sovereignty at stake.

Dissension in BJP are bound to grow under these circumstances and naturally developmental aspects are bound to be ignored. The BJP is doing its best to divert the attention of the people from the real issues and indulging in raking up extraneous issues to hoodwink the masses. The situation is becoming more complicated because of the inability of the Congress Party to put alternative policy issues and mobilise masses to fight for such an alternative policies.

Working class and the trade union movement in the country has therefore to assert itself on popular issues and launch vigorous movements on them to defeat the attempt to resort to diversionary tactics. On political issues the working class should be roused so that they can increasingly participate in political actions. Without effective political action by the working class and other toiling sections of the society the present deteriorating conditions in

India cannot be improved. The EEFI should pay proper attention to this aspect so that we can play an effective role to change the existing situation in favour of the people of India.

4. ECONOMIC SITUATION:

4.1 The trend of terminal decline in growth rate witnessed in all sectors of the economy at the end of a decade-long pursuit of the policy of the so-called economic-liberalisation. The period since then witnessed a confirmation of such declining trend in the whole economy, with its pernicious effects on the life and living of the workers and the common people.

4.2 In fact the liberalised policy regime has led to an overall distortion in the country's economy putting it in the track of terminal decline and erosion of its productive capacity in sectors alike alongwith aggravating unemployment and accompanying social tensions. That is how the NDA combine at the centre is serving their imperialist masters. It is the agenda of the economy of the developed nations being pursued by the Vajpayee Government in the Indian soil. The Union budget 2003-04 has also been designed to promote such distortion.

4.3 The consecutive Economic Surveys had admitted that the dampened growth scenario is basically the outcome of severe demands constraint in the economy, i.e., a situation arising out of low purchasing power of the people and squeezing market for the commodities. Investment perceptions are all time low and the capital formation rates are also dipping as a result.

4.4 On the other hand the so called incentives for augmenting investment is destined to fall flat as is evident from the experience of previous years. Investment growth has been consistently dipping since last half a decade and the concessions are being pocketed by the capitalists through manipulative routes. The banks are flushed with funds without any takers for investment purposes, although the interest rates are being reduced in successive budgets and also through separate announcements. The significant increase in the profits earned by the Scheduled Commercial Banks in 2001-02 was mainly due to other incomes, particularly from Securities trading and not from usual banking activities, as noted by the Economic Survey (2002-03). This is enough to expose the gravity of the unhealthy distortion setting in, in the economy contributing only to speculative activities but not to production, creation of wealth or employment generation. The profit margins of the big corporates in the country also depicts the same trend earning more and more through other routes than employment generating productive activities.

4.5 As the eminent Economist Prabhat Patnaik has explained, "The claim that the budget is 'growth oriented' is based however, on invoking a myth, namely that doing out of concessions to the capitalists (including the foreign ones) ipso facto promotes growth. This self-serving argument is put forward with particular vehemence precisely in periods of recession.

4.6 The Human development Index prepared by the UNDP has pointed out that out of 175 countries studied by it India's rank has come down from 124 to 127. Though the World Bank and the IMF are praising the advance made by the Indian nation and NDF Government claims that it is the second fastest growing economy in the world the above index clearly underlines the fact that India is among the poorest countries in the world.

5. PUBLIC SECTOR UNDER LIQUIDATION:

5.1 The BJP-led Government at the centre has taken a definite resolve to wipe out public sector from the country. In their very first budget itself (1998), they unequivocally declared that the sick public sector units would be closed down and Government's share holding in the PSUs shall be brought down to only 26% by selling off 74%. The steps towards disinvestments were given a deadly push by the Government with a sharp rise in the target. It is this Government, which devised a peculiar uncharted path of cross-holding of PSU shares and extracted from the profit making PSUs a sum of Rs.4,184.00 crore from their precious investible resources and thereby pushing them into cash crunch situation.

5.2 The Union Ministry of Disinvestment has brought out a "Manual of Privatisation". The manual seeks to systematise and legitimise the process of loot of national wealth through fast track privatisation as prescribed by the World Bank. While dealing at length on various methods of valuation of the PSUs under sale, the manual

recommends a particular method- 'the discounted cash flow method'(DCF), which ensures price-fixing for the PSUs under sale at a very low level, without any consideration of its huge asset base and replacement cost, solely to the advantage of the prospective buyers.

5.3 The love and affection of the BJP-led NDA Government at the centre for the private business is exposed in the document published by the Ministry of Disinvestments – 'Understanding the Strategic Sale Agreements'. As if the under valuation and other undue concessions granted while transferring the national assets to the private buyer for a song are not enough, provision has been made to pay cash 'reward' in the name of 'Post Closing Agreement'. An unique scope has been created by the Government by providing for the buyer to grab money from the seller (PSUs)- "During the data room visits and the due diligence exercise by the strategic Partner, the Strategic Partner gets the picture of the assets and liabilities of the company as on a certain date.... The deal may actually close at a much later date.....In the intervening period the company has been functioning and the asset/liability position has undergone a change....." The perception of the Government, in this matter, has got expression in the statement of the Disinvestment Minister Arun Shourie to the Financial Express on 7.3.02: "This means that the government could actually end up paying private bidders to get rid itself of loss-making PSUs."

5.4 A scrutiny of the disastrous privatisation policy continuously pursued by the central Government since 1991 would reveal that the attack on public sector has been intensified by the successive governments at the centre. The congress government started the privatisation game through the 1991 policy statement declaring, "a part of the government's shareholding in the public sector would be offered to mutual funds, financial institutions, general public and workers." While the UF government continued the process by establishing the Disinvestment Ministry. Upto 1999-2000, it was sale of minority shares of various PSUs in small lots.

5.5 The NDA regime has pushed the policy of disinvestments to conclusive privatisation by outright sale of profitable PSUs. While delivering the 2000-01 budget speech in Parliament the Finance Minister declared, "Government have recently established a new Department for Disinvestments to establish a systematic policy approach to disinvestments and privatisation which will emphasise increasingly on strategic sales of identified PSUs." In his address to the joint session of Parliament the President said, "the shift in the emphasis from disinvestment of minority shares to strategic sale has yielded excellent results".

5.6 Thus the rapid anti-public sector policies pursued by the BJP-led NDA Government is in its peak. The notable features of the current privatisation onslaught is that the blue chip profit making PSUs which were decorated with the classification of 'Nava Ratnas and Mini Ratnas' are the top targets. In the process blue chip profit making strategically important PSUs are being privatised one after another. It is a matter of serious concern that the strategic sectors like oil & petroleum, power, coal, telecom, rail, road and air transport, ports and docks, airports and of course the financial sector are top in the agenda of privatisation of Government.

5.7 The Vajpayee Government has become so desperate to hand over the entire public sector network to the private business houses and foreign MNCs that they are extending out-of-the-way concessions to attract private capital. Recently, the Government have announced a policy called 'infancy time' of three years to privatized PSUs with accumulated losses. Under this policy the private owner of the sold out PSUs shall be extended liberal loan by public sector banks and such loan shall be kept out of NPA norms for three years. It is reported that 24 PSUs under this category are marked for sell-off this fiscal. The entire move has been termed as, "commercial banks to increase their exposure to privatised government companies through higher working capital loans." (Economic Times 29.5.03)

6. POWER SECTOR LIBERALISATION:

6.1 The new power policy had been introduced on 23rd October 1991, seeking private investment in power industry. During last decade it has taken zigzag routes, left and right but could not attract private investment worth any substance. Hundreds of agreements were made with IPPs but nothing precipitated on the ground and barring three or four, remaining IPPs deserted from the scene during the decade.

6.2 The State power ministers conference on 26th February 2000 was convened by union power ministry, the agenda was the Electricity Bill-2000, mention of which was done in the General Secretary's report on 4th Annual

6.3 The Electricity Bill 2000 was further amended and put forth as Electricity Bill 2001. This Bill appeared to be a shallow one, devoid of depths, vision and self contradictory in nature, spirit and content. The bill undermines the very spirit of the constitution, that is cooperative federalism, as reforms would become mandatory in "true unitary form", the bill was ultra virus of the constitution, as electricity is in the concurrent list and the states should not be willing to forgo their mandate to enact legislation or manage their respective energy sector. If the Electricity Supply Act (1948) which is to be repealed by the Bill (Now Electricity Act:2003), the power utilities and SEBs are bound to be guided by Companies Act 1956 where the operations are bound to see a sea change for example the depreciation charges realizable will increase leading to escalation of cost of electricity. The Bill denied the workers to raise dispute under ID Act 1947.

6.4 The Electricity Act: 2003, the essence of which is competition and trading. The general driver for this transfer has been stated as 'efficiency' the logic being that private sector involvement and competition would lead to better resource allocation and eventually improved services for end-users of electricity services. In developed countries, where access is generally not a major concern, the main selling point for restructuring has been greater consumer choice and better pricing. In developing countries and countries in transition the argument of the so-called "Washington consensus" was that only privatisation would raise capital for power sector investments, reduce political interference, address the problems concerning non-performing public investments and public sector corruption, establish more efficient pricing (including the reduction of socially based subsidy) and again, reap efficiency gains (i.e reduced losses and theft, improve performance and streamline operations) to enhance economic development.

Competition has been introduced in power systems around the world (about in 40 countries) based on the premise that it will increase the efficiency of this industrial sector and reduce the cost of electrical energy for all consumers. Genuine competition is not possible without unbundling the generation, transmission, distribution, and retail activities that were traditionally carried out by vertically integrated utilities. From an economist's perspective, unbundling and competition have undeniable advantages, greater transparency in prices that discourages cross-subsidies and uneconomic policies, exposure to market discipline that rewards good management and punishes inefficient organisations, greater opportunities for innovation, and more incentives to respond to consumer needs.

6.5 Electrical energy is not, however, a simple commodity. Unlike other forms of energy it cannot easily be stored in large quantities. Continuity of supply thus has a value that can be much higher than the cost of the energy consumed. Furthermore, from an engineer's perspective, separating generation from transmission is a sweet fiction. Any limitation in the transmission system will distort the generation market and operating the transmission system without the assistance of the generating plants is unreasonably costly.

6.6 Widely different structures have been adopted for electricity markets in different regions. It seems fair to say that none of these structures offers completely satisfactory answers to the following questions.

- * How can the economic aspirations of consumers (lower prices) and suppliers (high profits) be balanced against the reliability expectations of these same consumers? In other words, how low can the prices go before the lights start flickering off too often?
- * How can the transmission system be managed to promote fair and efficient markets?
- * How can an unbundled industry structure deliver the reliability and quality of supply that customers want? Can such an industry structure provide different reliability and quality levels depending on the needs of some customers or groups of customers?

6.7 Power system stability depends on the state of the whole system and can be maintained in the face of unpredictable events only through coordinated action by all parties. How should standards be set, information exchanged, responsibilities shared, and corrective actions taken to keep the probability of system collapse at an acceptably low level without unduly hampering competition?

6.8 The Hon'ble Prime Minister's Conference of Chief Ministers on Power at New Delhi on 3rd March, 2001, wherein a number of far-reaching resolutions were adopted. The theme was the ministry of power would function

as a facilitator and a catalyst for power sector reforms. With this in view the ministry of power has signed MOU with the various states for initiating power sector reforms in lieu of special concessions which would be extended to them, under PDP and APDRP and various other schemes.

6.9 Ministry of power held a meeting on Electricity Bill-2001 on 9 March 2001 at New Delhi in which all stakeholders except consumers were invited including IPPs and foreign power consultants. CITU and NCCOEEE were represented by Com. S. Dev Roye and B.S. Meel and put forth the stand of the respective organisations on power policy. Even the architecture of Electricity Bill 2000, Shri Gajendra Haldea vehemently opposed the essence of the Bill-2001 although he is a penpusher of reformers.

6.10 The government of Orissa constituted a committee on 30th May 2001 to examine whether the reforms in the Orissa Power sector have progressed on the desired lines etc.,etc and the report was submitted by this high official committee on 30th October 2001 conceding squarely the failure of the power sector reforms all around on all parameters in Orissa power sector.

6.11 On July 24, 2001 the then power minister Mr. Suresh Prabhu invited and held the meeting with the convenors of NCCOEEE, in which he was honest enough to admit the failure of power reforms squarely in Orissa and Enron Fiasco. The NCCOEEE was represented by Com. A.B. Bardhan, E. Balanandan and B.S. Meel.

6.12 In tripartite meeting convened by labour minister on power sector on 9th December,2000 and subsequently on 11th October 2002. Despite the total opposition from the central trade unions, the Government of India went ahead by deepening the power sector reforms under Accelerated Power Development Programme and Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme.

6.13 The Electricity Bill-2001 was introduced in Parliament on 30th August 2001 and referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy in November 2001 and a report was presented to Lok Sabha on 19.12.2002 and laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.12.2002.

6.14 The Bill was tabled in Parliament on 7th April'03 and passed on 9th April'03. The Bill was referred to Rajya Sabha on 9th May'03 which was passed subsequently on 13th May'03.

6.15 The President accorded his consent on 6th June'03 and a Gazette notification was issued on 10th June'03 for Electricity Act 2003 to come into force w.e.f on 10th December'03.

7. ACTIVITIES OF EEFI & UNITED ACTIONS (NCCOEEE)

7.1 The IVth Annual Conference of EEFI was concluded with a message that EEFI's organisation is a torch light to protect and advance the rights of the electricity employees in the Indian power industry and should strive hard to organise united struggle against the power sector reforms vis vis new power policy, to force the government to change the policy to insulate the people from its adverse impacts.

7.2 At the initiative of EEFI, its affiliates in Rajasthan invited all the trade unions and engineers associations functioning countrywide at Jaipur in a national convention on 30th April 2000 to explore the possibilities of a united front among the engineers and employees in India to give effective resistance to new power policy vis a vis power sector reforms. The convention was successful and the employees and engineers resolved to carryout united struggle against the power policy and constituted the National Coordination Committee Of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE), with its 11 member composition at National Level.

7.3 The committee held its first meeting on 12 May,2000 at 15, Talkatora Road, New Delhi and decided to convene regional conventions at Calcutta, Bangalore, Patiala, Guwahati and Baroda. Besides these conventions it was decided to have an electricity employees and engineers protest march before parliament on 9th August' 2000 on following four demands:

- (i) Scrap Electricity Bill - 2000
- (ii) Stop unbundling and privatisation of Electricity Boards
- (iii) Restore the State Electricity Boards which are unbundled.

(iv) Insulate the Indian Industry and Agriculture from high cost power. Regional conventions were held as per schedule except at Baroda. A very powerful protest march was held before parliament on 9th August, 2000 and a memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister.

7.4 On September 29, 2000 NCCOEEE meet at New Delhi decided to conduct a nation wide agitation by holding state conventions between Nov.1-14th, statewide rallies in the state capitals on 15th November'2000, which were implemented in majority of states except few exceptions.

7.5 The extended NCCOEEE meet on 20th November 2000 and decided a direct nationwide action/token strike on 12th December 2000, first time in the history of the country since independence. More than 5 lakhs electricity employees and engineers all over the country participated in this action.

7.6 NCCOEEE extended meeting on 22nd December 2000 decided to have two national level conventions first at Nagpur on 4th February 2001 highlighting "Enron in Power sector and its consequences", and second at New Delhi on 7th July, 2001. Resolutions were adopted against new power policy demanding that electricity employees & engineers be invited to have our view point on new power policy else we will be constraint to initiative an agitation. Both the conventions were held as per schedule and were successful.

7.7 The extended NCCOEEE met at New Delhi on 6th October 2001 and decided to go on strike on 18th December 2001 against the Electricity Bill-2001 and also decided State level conventions on 21st November.2001, and massive district rallies on 4th December 2001 simultaneously throughout the country. The strike date was postponed on account of EB-2001 being referred to the parliamentary standing committee on energy and to avail the intervening time for more preparations.

7.8 On 31st October 2001 a meeting was convened by NCCOEEE at New Delhi of the Trade Unions and the Engineers Association representatives in CPSUs for co-ordinating their struggle with SEBs employees. The meeting was concluded by expressing solidarity.

7.9 NCCOEEE met on 10th March 2002 at New Delhi, decided and called upon the electricity employees and workers to support the joint call issued by the central trade unions for a countrywide token strike on 16th April, 2002.

7.10 The EEFI working committee was held on 15th July,2002 after participating in the National Assembly of Workers convened by central trade unions in Talkatora Stadium. The NCCOEEE met on 16th July,02 at New Delhi and decided to launch a mass awareness campaign w.e.f 9th August to 25th August 2002 and mass demonstrations simultaneously in all state capitals by electricity employees and engineers on 3rd day of the introduction of the Bill in Parliament and called upon the Government of Delhi to rethink and introspection of the power reform model adopted and heed signals from orissa experience else the people of Delhi will bear the burnt of high cost power, unaffordable to poor segments of society.

7.11 International Energy and Mines Organization (IEMO) 2nd World Congress was held at Kochi w.e.f. 15-17 Nov. 2002, by EEFI and Coal Federation. One national seminar on "Energy Scenario in India in the 21st Century – (Problems and Prospects)" on 14.11.02, the eve of IEMO Congress and international seminar on "Energy for All" on 17.11.02. The congress concluded with grand success inspiring all the participants.

7.12 NCCOEEE met on 8th February'03 at Bangalore and decided to hold statewide Dharna on 12th March'03 and a protest walkout and demonstrations one day earlier the day of introduction of Electricity Bill in the Lok Sabha. Dharns and demonstrations were held countrywide on 12th March'03.

7.13 EEFI and AIFEE met on 26th February'03 at AITUC office, 24 Canning line, New Delhi and decided a token strike by electricity workers and employees one day earlier the electricity bill 2003 is discussed in Parliament. The electricity employees and engineers's country over participated and protested with various forms of the agitation.

7.14 NCCOEEE meet was held on 21st August'03 at New Delhi, decided the following:

To strengthen the organization of NCCOEEE, Regional Conventions in All the five regions including North –East should be held within an interval of 15 days in any of slots convenient to powermen in respective state/region w.e.f 15th –30th September OR 1st - 15th Oct. OR 16th – 30th October'03, which shall have on its agenda within this slot the

state conventions of Electricity Employees and Engineers in the states where NCCOEEE unit does not exist and formation of the regional units alongwith seminar in the regional conventions. The dates/slots of these regional conventions will be communicated within next ten days after consultation among NCCOEEE members and feedback from regional constituents.

A blackday should be observed throughout the Nation by Electricity employees and Engineers with bearing of black badges to register protest against (i) the Electricity Act :2003 and (ii) the Supreme Court decision, snatching the right to strike. Throughout the day meetings shall be held in the workplaces by the Electricity Employees and Engineers and effigy of the EA 2003 & Supreme Court decision shall be burned at 5.00PM before workplaces. The date of the blackday will be communicated in the next fortnight which shall be before or upto 1st week of November 2003.

8 VOICE OF ELECTRICITY WORKERS:

8.1 One of the important task of the federation is to federate with intellectual material and experience of various movements to all the affiliated organisations in the fast changing situation under liberalisation in power sector. We feel satisfied to the extent that we have been able to bring almost regular issues of Voice of Electricity Workers, in incorporating all the major policy changes in economy in general and power sector in particular at national and international level. We also find that our organ is the only journal being published on behalf of the Trade Unions/Engineers Associations in power sector at national level. Our Journal has been widely appreciated by the intelligientia, Engineers, Employees and from larger sections of people for its content and quality. But I am sorry to point out that as per our perceptions some of our affiliates are not very much interested in circulating it among our ranks in the industry as well as outside industry. There is no substantial increase in subscription of the affiliates and it has also come to our notice that some of the affiliates simply dump the copies received by them in stores. You will bear with me that basic objective in present situation of our journal is to organise, develop and accelerate united struggles of the employees and to raise their class consciousness. With the prevailing state of affairs this objective is yet to be succeeded.

Proper attention to the circulation of the magazine and payments for the distributed magazine are not cared properly by many affiliated organizations. I hope you will agree with me that journal can not be published indefinitely unless we make this publication financially viable. Not only this but it was also observed that the regular quarterly report of activities to be published in the journal are also not received, impeding quality and content of the organ and thus depriving large sections of electricity employees from sharing the experiences of different struggles carried out by the unions/federations on local demands as well as on national issues. This shortcoming cannot be taken up lightly and needs a major shake up of our hearts to improve the situation with precision. Self-critically we have to analyse the weakness of the organization and to find out a way to over come this.

9. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

9.1 IEMO came into being on 18th June 1996 as a bull work against the offensive of globalisation and its disastrous effects on the masses in general and the working class in particular.

9.2 IEMO declared that the all pervasive offensive of globalization could be met only by the united working class action and it could not be said that it was unassailable and that it should be understood that every imperialist offensive arising out of globalization was aimed at to divide the people and move particularly the working people in order to take on this challenge, energy workers all over the world should unite to save the energy sector from being pushed into the hands of capitalists and their transnational corporation. Therefore, IEMO's declaration and its objectives enjoin upon energy workers all over the world including the powermen in India to carry forward its call in the context of every national situation and its needs.

The Forum "Right to Energy" Association which was founded following from the trade union appeal that was widely disseminated by the CGT, the National Union of Mines and Energy, in order to promote the demand for recognition of the Right to energy as a right to human Right, has invited our organization to participate in the World Energy Forum at Nice (France) on December 3-5, 2000 but we could not avail this opportunity on account of the then forthcoming Electricity Employees national strike on 12th December, 2000.

The Electricity employees Federation of India was affiliated with IEMO in October, 2001.

Com. Murari Bose, Working Committee Member, EEFI participated at Brussels(Belgium) in a seminar held on "Draught of Energy" on 5th & 6th March, 2002 which was organized by World Energy Forum.

Our organization (EEFI) alongwith Coal Federation organized the Second World Congress of International Energy and Mines Organization (IEMO) at Kochi from November 15-17, 2002 successfully in which 70 foreign delegates besides 81 Indian delegates participated. The other organization at international level is ICEM affiliated to ICFTU was also invited and Com. Gino Govender participated and greeted the 2nd IEMO Congress on behalf of ICEM. The theme of the Congress was "Energy for All". Two seminars were held, one national seminar on Indian Energy scenario in 21st century (Problems and Prospects) on 14th November 2002, and another an international seminar on "Right to Energy for All". Com. M.K. Pandhe was elected as Chairman of IEMO.

Com. Ranjit Singh, GS, Technical Services Union, Jalandhar was nominated as a delegate in the world Social Forum Conference held at Alegre, Brazil from January 23rd to 28th,2003 but could not participated as his passport was not prepared timely.

Com. P.N. Choudhury was invited by the central organization of Trade Unions of Cuba(CTC) to represent in the May Day celebrations at Havana, Cuba between 29th April and 3rd May. The special emphasis was given in Mayday celebration this year as 150th birth anniversary of greatest ever revolutionary poet of Cuba Jose Marti and 50th anniversary of attack on Moncada Forte during the struggle for Cuban independence.

Com. P.N. Choudhury made programme with the FNME(CGT) to visit the Central Load Despatch Centre of France and a few other power stations along with discussion in respect of struggle of the French electricity Workers & Employees on his way back. CGT expressed their keenness if EEFI depute delegate to attend their congress likely to be held in the month of October'03. Com. P.N. Choudhury invited the FNME (CGT) delegation to make it convenient to attend the forthcoming EEFI Conference in August/September'03. As EEFI conference will be over in September'03. Com. P.N. Choudhury intimated FNME that after EEFI conference is over, Com. B.S. Meel, General Secretary EEFI may be available to attend the CGT Congress on having formal invitation.

Com. B.S. Meel and Com. R. Sudha Baskar, General Secretary, United Electricity Employeed Employees Union, Hyderabad participated in the 2003 World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs, held at Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Japan) w.e.f 2-9 August,2003 on invitation from organising committee: 2-4-4 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8464 JAPAN.

10. ORGANISATIONS:

10.1 Our Affiliation Fee per member is Rs.1/- per year. Even this small amount is not properly collected in the name of EEFI and remitted at the centre. Even if we remit it totally, this is meagre to commensurate with the present day requirements of consistent and continuous struggle against power policy. Therefore our proposal is to increase it from Rs.1/- per member per year to Rs. 3/- per member per year. This may kindly be examined and suitable decision be taken and amendment in the constitution.

10.2 Our membership in the IVth annual conference was about 1,50,000 representing 24 unions. Now we have a modest increase having membership around more than 2,25,000 representing 30 organisations. We are yet to start our account in M.P., H.P., Maharashtra and Karnataka. Even where EEFI's affiliates are in dominant position, there is a scope for further improvement. One of the area regarding organising contract workers merits our attention which is presently has not been taken on agenda by our affiliates except a few exceptions. Our membership is small in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Jarkhand. Organisationally we have to concentrate very much in areas where we have not yet organised the workers particularly in case of contract workers, daily wages and temporary employees who are existing in abundance strength.

10.3 The GS, WBSEB, Kolkata had forwarded a memo on 21st August'03 to EEFI regarding strengthening of EEFI units in various states based on the West Bengal experience which is encouraging. (copy enclosed as annexure-1)

10.4 We should further strengthen our organization in the aforesaid areas so as to become basic organization in the industry. Our affiliates in CPSU particularly in Powergrid and NTPC have made serious inroads which signals if

attempted with proper attention and zeal, there is sufficient scope to enlarge our organisational strength. This evidence is adduced on the strength of the pioneer role our organisation played in marshalling and piloting in the united platform of agitation under the National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers during more than last three years and our organization enjoys the reputation sphereheading the united struggle.

10.5 Since IVth conference our central office has started functioning regularly with computer operator and facilities in the form of telefax, fax, e-mail, & website and mobile phone to General Secretary. Earlier it was functioning at 6, Talkatora Road, New Delhi which has been shifted since October 2002 at 13-A, Rouse Avenue, New Delhi. Though the central office is functioning for last three years, the performance is yet far from satisfactory. To streamline the work at the central office, it is very necessary that atleast one comrade among working committee/office – bearer should regularly work at central office.

10.6 The meeting of the office-bearers and working committee is being regularly conducted and issues being faced by power sector and electricity employees are discussed and decisions taken. We have conducted 14 regular Working Committee Meetings, 2 special working committee meeting, 2 office-bearers meeting since our IVth annual Conference, and also in addition to that convened 14 meetings of NCCOEEE besides convening one meeting of the electricity employees at National level on 26th Feb.2003. Almost entire decisions at the level of National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers have been piloted by our organization. But I am sorry to point out that the attendance in the working committee meeting of EEFI is generally relatively very low, as we observe that at an average 15 to 20 comrades participated in each working committee meeting against the requirement/strength of 61 numbers. (the total strength of Working Committee Members & Office-bearers). We need much improvement in this aspect. I hope we will critically analyze and should evolve a strategy to cover up the weakness.

FUTURE TASKS:

1. Fight against the policies of globalization, liberalisation and privatisation
2. Fight against the Electricity Act: 2003
3. Fight to preserve the power industry under public sector
- 4) Organise and unite the electricity employees and engineers effectively all over India under National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers.
- 5) Satisfactory service to the consumers of the country is our Motto
- 6) Fight to preserve secularism and isolate the divisive forces in the country.
- 7) Improve and increase the circulation of Voice of Electricity Workers
- 8) Strengthen the EEFI by strengthening the base of our Unions.
- 9) All efforts should be made to bring temporary, casual and contract workers under the trade union fold.

CONCLUSION:

Various affiliated unions have sent their reports of activities and the service conditions. I thank those comrades who took pains to send those reports, which has been printed separately. On both these reports I request to enrich with your criticism and suggestions.

Thank you Comrades,

B.S. MEEL