

In reply to politically motivated campaign made by BMS Union

Friends,

You are certainly aware of the leaflet circulated by RSS led BMS union. We have gone through the leaflet line by line and we are putting our views hereunder.

The statements are mixture of truth, half truth and totally lie. BMS has circulated this statement to distract the electricity employees, engineers, electricity consumers and people as a whole on the eve of one day token strike/work boycott on 10th August, 2021 against draconious Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021. Motto of which is privatisation of DISCOMS at first, finally electricity industry as a whole.

BMS has correctly stated under compulsion of foreign currency reserve being in dangerous crisis the then Congress government was compelled to accept foreign loan from IMF (International Monetary Fund) under certain terms and conditions of following neo-liberal economy as prescribed by World Bank, IMF & WTO (World Trade Organisation).

It is late Pranab Mukherjee (not Mr. Chidambaram) the then MIC Commerce who signed GATT (General Agreement on Trade & Tariff) Agreement.

Yes, we the left trade unions and also the left political parties opposed the governments policies of following Liberalizations, Privatisation and Globalization (LPG). Left TUs organized countrywide General Strike against the policy of the government. What was the role of BMS union? They were in support of Congress Government.

We the left TUs are on the opinion continuous reforms of economic, industrial, commercial and agricultural policies are the must for the development of the country and countrymen as a whole. Reforms must have human face. The benefits of the development must reach to the downtrodden economically backward people instead of only development of Industrialists, landlords etc.

What are the outcomes of Central Government's policies followed by neo liberal economy in the interest of richest people in last 3 decades (1991-1996 & 2004-2014 by Congress and 1999-2004 & 2014-2021 and continued still by BJP), economical discrimination in between rich and poor's, unemployment jobless & job loss growth, poverty have been increased to a great extent, resulting in suicidal death in thousands of formers, unemployed youths have also been increased our beloved country is in behind of our neighbor countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan & Srilanka in the que in question of human index, hunger index. On the other side the number of billioners are increasing jumping.

From the year 2008 severe economical depression is continued out of follow of neo-liberal economy resulting in Bank failure in hundreds, closure of industry, retrenchment, curtailment of wage & social securities. In our country we have not been on looker of same scenario as we opposed privatisation of Banks, Insurance companies. Our ask to BMS union

may we the left TUs not boast of this success? What was the role of BMS union? They are still supporting the policy of privatisation of Banks, Insurance companies. On the contrary left TUs have organized several strike in the past years and still continued to oppose such policies.

It is rightly stated Congress government started reforms in electricity industry by inviting private capital of country and abroad and also implemented the Electricity Act, 2003, which was enacted by BJP government. We from the platform of EEFI (Electricity Employees Federation of India) & NCCOEEE (National Co-ordination Committee of Electricity Employees & Engineers) totally opposed the enactment by BJP government and unbundling of SEB's in the name of restructuring by congress government all the times. Left parties & left TUs inside & outside of the parliament stood casabianka against the Bill. Is it not, BMS union who extended whole support towards anti-people steps by BJP & Congress government. Practically during the years 2004-2014 BJP leaders used to cry that Congress party has stoled the economic policy followed by BJP, though they all along supported the economic steps, bill etc brought in by Congress government in parliament. RSS led BMS union was not out of the truck while the left political parties and left TUs formed barricade against such steps.

Left political parties had compelled Congress government (2004-2009) to continue cross subsidy for the interest of poor farmers and low end consumers they also compelled Congress government to declare that rural electrification would be made by them at the cost of the support extended by left parties, though those facilities were not provided in Electricity Act, 2003.

It is also correctly stated by BMS union that loan amount of DISCOMs have been increased to a great extent. Will BMS union answer the question why our (EEFI's) demands towards review of Electricity Act, 2003 have been defied by BJP government and what was the role of BMS in that question? May we ask BMS union why UMPP (Ultra Mega Power Project) followed by BJP government has been failed? If the projects were successful DISCOMs could have cheaper power from the generators. NTPC, DVC the successful electricity generators were deprived of bidding by BJP government. It is not at all correct that Calcutta Electricity Distribution was first privatized. CESC is a private concern was entrusted in supplying electricity in Calcutta from the year 1998. BSES (Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Co as a private player was also entrusted in supply of electricity from long years past. It was stated in the act, 2003 that under competition efficiency will increase and cheaper electricity will be available. What is the result? The tariff has been increased from 6 to 8 times in comparison to the year before 2003. Increase of tariffs is more in respect of Reliance, TATA, Adani who are continuing electricity supply business in Delhi, Mumbai and many other cities of high consumer density. Will BMS union will answer why sufficient funds have not allotted for development of transmission and distribution network so that AT&C loss might have been minimized?

50% of power generation is under private capital. Is it not correct 50% of installed capacity of the country is remaining idle throughout the year. Will BMS union answer is it not the idea towards Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 that due to delicensing (BMS union has

not mentioned), due to allowing franchises in the DISCOMS present state-owned DISCOMS will suffer. Franchise would not require to invest capitals for maintaining and development of networks which have been built by the tax paid by people. Central Government would invest Rs.3 lac crores for prepaid smart meters. Franchises would deploy sufficient employees and would not make payment of minimum wage, social securities like state owned DISCOMS. So the cost of supply of power by the franchises would be less in comparison to state owned DISCOMS. Franchises would find interest in doing business in consumer densed town area instead of less populated rural area. Consumers also would purchase cheaper electricity from franchises. Naturally state owned DISCOMS will loose both industrial, commercial and domestic consumers. They would be compelled to continue business in rural areas and would suffer loss, would be sick and finally would go under closure. The consumers of rural areas, farmers, low end consumers would be deprived of getting power. Right to access of electricity for all policy will discontinue. Is it not the idea to sick the DISCOMS, the private power generators like Adani, Reliance, Tata would come in distribution sector to earn more profits. Firstly they would be able to sell their generated power and secondly they would be able to carry on monopoly business when state owned DISCOMS would go under closure. Thus electricity industry as a whole would be privatised. Can BMS union deny the real truth behind? If it not correct change of labour laws, agriculture acts have been adopted by virtue of absolute majority in parliament by BJP government ignoring the oppositions lodged by left TUs. 500 farmers organizations to serve the interest of Reliance, Adani, who are mostly favoured by BJP government? What is the role by BJP unions in this question?

Finally, we are sure motto of BJP government is sell of public sectors, natural resources like coal, oil, gas to private capitals at water cost but we the left TUs, farmers' organizations, left political parties are determined to form strong barricade in the way of privatisation we will not allow BJP government to fulfill their sweet dreams to serve the corporate houses. BMS union should determine what role they would play? We condemn the statement in last para that when BJP will be in opposition they would stand against government policies. All should condemn such opportunist ideas.