

ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA

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No.

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CIRCULAR

A virtual meeting of EEFI Working Committee took place on 8th July. The meeting was presided over by Com K O Habeeb. The meeting was attended by 38 WC members.

At the onset of the meeting the General Secretary placed a note based upon outcome of discussion of Office Bearers meeting of 7th July. Salient points of the note are placed below in the bullet form as reference for presentation by EEFI state leadership before the organizers and members at all levels.

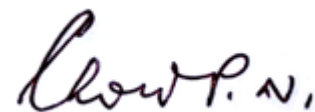
- Inhuman and irresponsible role of the central Government to combat Covid 1st and 2nd wave drew due criticism from all corners. EEFI greeted people of India for their victory over the unwilling NDA Government by compelling them to accept free universal vaccination. Meeting shared the available information that almost all the electricity employees including members of their families has been protected with at least first dose of vaccination. But some of our fellow power employees sacrificed their lives in the COVID pandemic in the course of rendering their service with uninterrupted power supply to health sector.
- Working Class observed Save Democracy Save Agriculture day on 26th June last in solidarity with the struggling peasants to oppose Farm Acts as well Electricity (Amendment) Bill through 7 months last at the behest of Sanjukta Kisan Morcha (SKM). Central Trade Unions decided various forms of campaign and demonstrative struggle between 25th July and 8th August all over the country culminating on 9th August next. Electricity employees at the behest of CITU as well EEFI must involve the members in it. Plight of the people has become intolerable. Following different forms of lock down in the states and economic slowdown around 20 Crores toiling people lost their jobs. Sky level hike of all essential commodities as well cascading effect of hike in Petro products starvation and suicidal death has become common phenomenon.
- All the Federations of Defense Production civilian employees are valiantly opposing privatization of Ordnance Factories. Ordnance Factories Board has been split into 7 segments for corporatization with ultimate plan of privatization. They declared 8th July as the date of issuance of indefinite Strike Notice. Government promulgated undemocratic Essential Defense Service Ordinance (EDSO) by the President to curb the striking rights of the civilian employees. All federations of Defence employees jointly called 8th July a Black Day. All CTUs extended support to this call. The Working Committee meeting of EEFI taking place on 8th July, 2021 univocally condemned the semi-fascist attitude of the Modi Government towards curbing democratic rights of the people. Working Committee referred to highly sensitive Rafael Fighter Aircraft deal between France and India has been placed under public scanner in France. But our Government is silent. Why India had to pay higher cost with the change of Prime Minister in New Delhi may be a most relevant question.
- Federations of the workers of major industrial sectors including Bank, Insurance, Coal, Steel, power, Oil are opposing privatisation in various forms of struggle. Government is utilising the

Covid situation and Disaster Management Act as weapon to cherish their plan of privatisation of public assets. Labour Codes have been enacted and in the process of promulgation. Amidst this situation, GoI has announced its plan to place the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and get it passed in this ensuing session of the Parliament. Our struggle against curbing the rights of people towards access to electricity has been started in 1991, when generation sector was opened for private sector. From the year 2000 Electricity Bill, 2000 was placed in public domain. Therefrom new phase of struggle was started. NCCOEEE was constituted. This united forum became successful to modify Electricity Act 2003, when UPA-1 Government was dependent upon 61 left members of Parliament.

- Present situation is different. Lowest numbers of left MPs are there in Parliament and contrarily BJP has got comfortable majority to get their evil agenda passed. So, our task has become tough. As we are weak in the floor of the Parliament, we need to stress it in the ground. All we understand that, in Power sector EEFI is having its existence in maximum number of states and UTs. But we are with major strength in limited states. 3rd February strike was resorted to under compelling situation. As the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 will be summarily passed. We cannot allow it to be passed silently.
- We need to keep in mind that Government is frantically rushing behind power sector privatization but spending huge public money for system improvement as well installation of smart meters. These reveal how Modi Government is serving capitalists with public exchequer.

Upon this background, EEFI Working Committee unanimously decided to adopt following steps towards direct action to oppose enactment of the Bill by the Parliament.

1. EEFI will start massive public campaign, demonstrative mobilization with immediate effect to draw public attention towards game plan of GoI to pass the impugned Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the ensuing session of the Parliament.
2. Session of the Parliament will be commenced from 19th July. All states will organize District / State level protest demonstration on that day. Memorandum will be sent to the Prime Minister for annulment of the Bill drafted to curb right to electricity of the poor as well rural people of India. All the demands of 3rd February Strike will be included in the Charter of Demands.
3. All NCCOEEE constituents will be consulted to intensify the struggle. Difference of opinion related to form of direct action will be discussed and resolved. EEFI opinion towards resorting to one day Strike at any mutually agreed upon date preferably by the first week of August will be placed for consensus.
4. Confusion related to Work Boycott / Protest Day on the day of Strike should not be recurred. If any NCCOEEE proposal of Protest Day is placed, EEFI may take part in the same on any day before the day of Strike.
5. Preparatory activities must be started with various levels of committee and General Body meetings of each of the organisations. Public campaign must cover the adverse implications of electricity privatization embracing anti-people policy of the Government.
6. Stronger states are requested to share suggestions and creations of graphics with English / Hindi translations of the Texts on implications of Electricity privatization for conventional as well social media campaign.
7. States/Unions should update EEFI centre with reports at least once in a week.



(Prasanta N Chowdhury)
General Secretary