



ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA

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No.

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CIRCULAR

Sub: Decision and Salient Points of Discussion of the Working Committee Meeting held on 14 & 15 March, 2021 at P R Bhawan (EEFI National Centre)

The first physical meeting since outbreak of COVID-19, was presided over by Com K O Habeeb and assisted by Com Subhas Lamba. 24 Comrades took part with physical and 16 with virtual presence. 24 comrades took part in the debate. Some Comrades had genuine difficulty to come but plea of some comrades is not convincing. EEFI leaders of the adjacent state, has been assigned responsibility to meet the leadership of the state totally absent to understand their difficulty.

General Secretary placed his report embracing important National socio economic issues since outbreak of COVID pandemic. The report briefly covered inhuman attack upon peasants and workers and patronizing the capitalists at the cost from public exchequer.

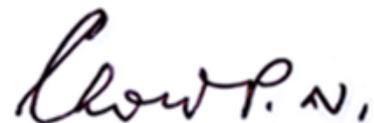
Com Tapan Sen, General Secretary, CITU attended the meeting. In his valued guidance he cited both positive as well organizational weaknesses of EEFI. He stressed upon to take up the issues with the workers so that they understand the co-relation between the issues and its link with policy and politics behind it. Once the workers are aware on issue, they will come forward in the path of struggle with its appropriate sense and spirit.

Com Habeeb drew the attention of all members of WC to the agenda on organisation and advised all the working committee members to come forward with the idea, so that shortcomings and limitation in the organisation is redressed.

1. Assembly Election is being held in Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Union territory of Puducherry. EEFI is having vibrant presence in all these states & UT. EEFI units of the states should highlight the issue of Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2021 to their fullest vigour & strength in the course of election campaign in support of left, secular and democratic force. The conspirators who are trying to snatch away the right to electricity of poor people in general and rural India as a whole, are to be exposed. Campaigners of Left parties should be reminded to raise the issue to the voters that NDA Govt in 2003 passed the Act to snatch away the right to electricity of rural as well poor people. UPA-1 Govt. on insistence of Left MPs amended two clauses to retain the right to electricity of poor and rural people.
2. Ensuing Election bound states may take up more wider campaign against power sector privatization after Election phase is over but other states should take up the issue immediately. If the capacity of the union is too limited to take up in the whole state, they may take up in area where their capacity & effort is better. Report must be sent to EEFI centre.

3. Struggle of Electricity employees throughout the pandemic period was reviewed in the online meetings of OB and WC. Participation in 26th November, 2020 and 3rd February Strike was discussed. As 26th November Strike call was from all central TUs, EEFI constituents took part to the extent possible. But EEFI constituents in some of the states, did not take part in the strike on 3rd February and swayed by NCCOEEE constituents, who apparently take part in the Work boycott / protest rally. Leadership of the states raised the plea of low strength or no NCCOEEE call. WC found the grounds as very flimsy. They did not go through EEFI circular and neither discuss it all level of the organisation nor issue the Strike Notice. They did not explain the importance of the strike call to the workers. When the whole society excepting left TUs did not take up the issue of electricity reform, Peasants organisations could understand the menace of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020. They placed the demand of scrapping the Bill in addition to the Farm Acts. This strike call was a solidarity struggle as a mark of Workers Peasants Alliance in the path of class struggle. EEFI has its ideological, historical as well constitutional responsibility to carry forward the class struggle. How much is our strength in the state is not major question. Our responsibility lies to inspire our all members to take part in the strike. This effort was not taken up in some states, where EEFI is a vibrant force from its inception. It transpires very serious shortcomings in the organisations. EEFI needs immediate redressal of this weakness. We also need to keep in mind that all constituents of NCCOEEE don't have such social as well ideological responsibilities.
4. Working committee took up the Anti-people Power Sector Reform by the Government and struggle against such reform. One of the major step was 3rd February Strike. NCCOEEE, the broader platform may be utilized as a forum of campaign. But we shall have to give up the idea of militant action with this platform. Unfortunately some of our organisation has given priority on NCCOEEE state chapter decision. We need to change our approach.
5. Talking points have been circulated it should be utilized to develop campaign material. Centrally our Kerala organisation has been assigned to develop a set of campaign material in English. Leaflet, Poster, Banner, Sticker and 1/2/3 minutes duration audio visual clips will also be developed. From EEFI Center both Hindi & English materials will be sent.
6. All our state unions will approach once again to CITU/AIKS both in state & district level towards development of united Forum of Electricity Consumers & Employees as decided.
7. Public Awareness Campaign week will be observed between 10 and 16th May 2021. Massive campaign in various forms will be there – one point must be in front of Power Department state HQ. Entire organisation from top to bottom is to be prepared to make the campaign successful. In District level vital locations will be chosen. Report will be reviewed in the next meeting of the Working Committee.
8. Physical Signature campaign as well online signature campaign will be continued starting from campaign week through May-June-July. KSEBOA will take the initiative towards development of online campaign. We shall also approach progressive social organisations to get them involved in this struggle to ensure right to electricity for the poor rural and urban people.
9. **Important agenda of this meeting was organisation** but only a few comrades touched the issue. Com. Habeeb, our President noted it from his virtual participation in the meeting and mentioned in his deliberation.

10. Organisational review will be carried out in states from State / District / Unit level to identify its strength and weakness – organisation document should be developed as adopted in Bhubaneswar. EEFI Office Bearers assigned the organizational responsibility of the concerned state after 8th conference should assist the state for completion of this important task. They may also involve suitable Working Committee members.
11. Odisha – A team of OB will sit with the unions in Odisha to concentrate on organisation, so that their spirit to keep the organisation vibrant even after privatization of the state utilities.
12. Western Region is still our weakest zone. Focus on Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh will be intensified in consultation with the CITU state Committees. Possibility of setting up Maharashtra state unit of EEFI should be explored. As a good number of Unions are functional there including on of Maha Discom.
13. Next working committee meeting will take place on 22-23 May 2021 in Delhi. All Working Committee members are being notified now, so that they may ensure their attendance. Organisational plan as above will be reviewed in this meeting.
14. In this meeting, we shall concentrate upon qualitative improvement of the organisation. States should report their last two years activities on TU Education & one year forthcoming plan of TU Education. EEFI Centre will also chalk out plan for central TU Education camp at PR Bhawan for Hindi. Central TU Education camp in English will take place in any southern state by a few months next. Participants will be mix of senior & younger comrades. State wise allocation will be around number of WC members.
15. Collection and deposit of Struggle Fund should be expedited. Unions of Contractors' workers need not contribute in this head. All organisations are to deposit affiliation dues upto 2020 by April next.
16. Time and Venue of ninth Conference was Discussed. Earlier we discussed to organize this conference in north India. Since, peasants of Punjab resorted to historic struggle shaking the entire country on the demands scrapping the Farm Acts and Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020. Whole India as well people of the World sent ovation to fighting spirit of farmers of Punjab, who initiated the struggle and spread all over India. We may plan to organize 9th EEFI conference in Punjab. We are having 3 unions in Punjab. If they take the responsibility together, this conference may attain another dimension. Comrades of Punjab will discuss the proposal in their meeting & confirm. Time may be in November after Diwali. Com Subhas Lamba will co-ordinate. Final decision will be arrived in the next meeting of Working Committee. Basis of delegation will be membership upto December 2020. Total Nos. of delegation will be kept confined within 400 (Four Hundred).



(Prasanta N Chowdhury)
General Secretary