



ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA

B.T. Ranadive Bhawan, 13A, Rouse Avenue, New Delhi-110 002
Telefax : +91 11 23219670 W : eeficentre.org E : eefederation@gmail.com

President : K O Habeeb E : kohabeeb@gmail.com

General Secretary : Prasanta N Chowdhury

E : prasantaqst@gmail.com

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CIRCULAR

A meeting of the EEFI Working Committee took place on 20th and 21st July, 2019, Comrade K O Habeeb, President EEFI, sought for and granted leave of absence for this meeting. Comrade S Devroye, Working President EEFI, chaired the meeting. Some of the working committee members informed their incapability to attend the meeting. The meeting granted their leave of absence. Two EEFI functionaries from Odisha and Punjab were invited for this meeting.

The Working Committee paid respectful homage to our beloved leader Comrade N Kiran, leader of EEFI and General Secretary, Telangana United Electricity Employees Union, who passed away on 7th May last, after prolong intrepid struggle with terminal diseases. EEFI boastfully recapitulates his contribution in the working class movement in AP and Telangana as well our country.

1. EEFI noted with appreciation that all its constituents played befitting role in the 17th Parliament Election, wherever possible they contributed positively to make left candidates victorious. But the election result with massive victory of communal forces pressed the workers, peasants and common people of the country in a very stringent situation. Working Committee has given direction to our constituents to be prepared for intensive struggle to protect the rights and interest of the working class.
2. Working Committee expressed its serious concern to note that the sovereign integrity of the country, while monolithic fabric of unique social, religious, cultural & lingual plurality are under serious attack by the obscurantist forces backed by the state power. Working Committee vowed with patriotic spirit on the part of EEFI to move hand in hand with the left and democratic forces of the country to keep harmony of the people of our country.
3. Working committee drew notice of the Electricity Workers of the country towards issues like unemployment, price hike, poor growth rate of GDP vis-a-vis crisis in national economy, truncated democratic rights of the workers and people in general, agrarian crisis causing starvation death of farmers did not pose as prime issue in the 17th Lok Sabha election, while central issue became the construction of temple of Rama with the slogan 'Jai Sri Ram'. Modi hijacked heroism of Indian Forces at Pakistan Front with blanket support of market driven media to cover the grievances of the people by ultra nationalism. Central Slogan 'Modi Sarkar Aur Ekbar', swayed our simple, innocent countrymen leading to thumping victory of BJP and its alley.
4. Working Committee noted that 2nd Modi Govt. has opened its teeth and nail promptly after election victory. Tasks for first hundred days has been declared simply to attack the working class of India. 46 Nos. of central public sector enterprises will be privatised including BSNL, Air India, Defence productions, Stations and Tracks of Indian Railways. Target has been declared to collect Rs 3.25 lakh crore Rupees. Budget speech of Finance Minister indicated a lots of such attacks.
5. The labour minister of Modi government announced at a press conference that the new floor level minimum wage for the country will be Rs.178 per day. This translates to Rs. 4,628 per month. 7th Pay

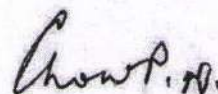
Commission recommended minimum wage for the Central Government employees three years back monthly salary of Rs. 18000/- . After three years government prescribes floor level minimum wage @ 25% of government employees. Third, the declaration of Rs. 178 per day goes against the government's own Expert Committee recommendation of Rs. 375- Rs. 447 per day (or Rs. 9,750- Rs. 11,622 per month) as the National Minimum Wage. This Committee, headed by Anoop Satpathy, was set up by the same minister in Modi 1.0 government in January 2018 and gave its recommendations in January 2019. The recommended levels are actually pegged much lower than the accepted norms by reducing the minimum calorific intake norm from 2,700 to 2,400 Kcal, and other sleights of hand. But the Modi government is pushing it further down.

6. Working Committee decided to intensify the struggle to oppose anti-worker, anti-people policy of the government. United struggle of all central trade unions with the demands of save public sector, save people, save workers, save peasants, solve unemployment are being intensified. All EEFI constituents should join with the main stream trade union movements with the above demands. Our memorandum is to be sent through mass demonstration to head of the respective utilities, the Chief Minister and Prime Minister. This phase of movement should be initiated from unit, project, division, circle, district and to culminate at state headquarters by early September before the mid September festivity. All these movement will embrace the issues of anti-people electricity policy, anti-worker labour laws, legitimate demands of contract workers. NCCOEEE national chapter will meet on 31st July at Delhi. On the part of EEFI, effort will be taken to involve all NCCOEEE constituents. Otherwise our programme will stand.
7. EEFI raised the issue of equal wage for equal work. National level convention and intervention of Central Labour Commissioner did not yield any result. Working Committee decided to continue the field struggle but side by side legal front will also be explored. As a first step one workshop/round table consultation with involvement of our friendly legal experts will be organised. As the law suit will be against government from states to centre, public and private owned power utilities, copies of good number of authentic documents needed to be produced before the Apex Court. All our unions are to collect and the copies of the documents like charter of demands submitted to SEBs, companies, government departments like labour and power, proceedings of bargaining forums, agreements of settlements to EEFI national centre.
8. Working Committee noted the budget speech of Finance Minister emphasising ONE NATION ONE GRID. Formation of one integrated National Grid was the demand of progressive trade union movement in power sector has been achieved a couple of years ago. Finance Minister intended to focus the same as the credit of their government. With the utterance of the Finance Minister we should logically raise the demand of Equal Wage for Equal Work for the electricity workers across the country.
9. Working Committee was informed that a good number of KSEB contract workers will be regularised by the earliest time. EEFI, while greet the LDF government of Kerala, impress upon all its constituents to raise the demand of regularisation of contract workers all over the country.
10. The year 2019 is significantly important for the trade union movement of India as this year is the century of foundation of trade union in our country as well Golden Jubilee of foundation of CITU, the vanguard of working class movement in concurrent India. EEFI along with all its constituents will celebrate the year in a befitting manner. Within the span of one year all EEFI affiliates will concentrate upon improvement of quality of its membership both externally and internally. Improvement of ideological standard of the organisers of the union should be taken care by the state based organisations, while proper programme at the regional level will chalked out by the committee constituted are as under:-
 Eastern and North-Eastern region : Comrade Tarun Bharadwaj will be the convenor.
 Southern region : Comrade Rajendran and Comrade Joyprakash will be the joint convenors.
 Northern region : Comrade Naresh Kumar and Comrade Jail Singh will be joint convenors.
 Celebration will be planned in consultation with the leadership of the states concerned.
11. Organisational Document on the part of EEFI was discussed and adopted by the Working Committee in October 2018 at Bhubaneswar. As decided documents of the part the major states will be adopted by the General Body of the concerned organisation and included in the document. Two subsequent Working Committee meetings in February and July 2019 pursued without any result. Working

Committee decided, EEFI centre will publish the organisational document covering the content received before 31st August, 2019.

12. Comrades of Kerala reported, 85% of KSEB employees voluntarily contributed @ one month's salary for reconstruction of the state following flood devastation last year. Monetary value of total contribution will touch nearly Rs. 100 crores. Working Committee highly applauded the gesture of electricity employees of Kerala.
13. TUI (Chemistry & Energy) Executive Committee met in December, 2018 and June, 2019 after its 3rd Congress held at Thiruvanthapuram in September, 2018. In order to meet recurring expenses of Trade Union International (Chemistry & Energy) its constituents have been requested to contribute USD 500 (INR 35000) per annum. Working Committee accepted the recurring expenditure towards contribution to TUI (C&E).
14. Our Comrades of CES Workmen's Union, who shoulders the responsibility of despatch of Voice are facing difficulty in absence of updated mailing list. Even after repeated request our major states who mostly subscribe the organ did not take care of updating the mailing list. Hard Copy of decade old (present) state wise mailing list was handed over to Working Committee member/s of the state with earnest request of updating. In absence of updating list, printing and despatch of Voice will not be possible.
15. EEFI centre tries to update the EEFI Web Portal very regularly but input from the states (even major states) is very irregular. General Secretary requested, to avoid problem of general apathy of our organisers, only photographs of the activities with one liner caption in English or Hindi may kindly be emailed to EEFI centre immediately after the programme.
16. Co-option in Working Committee: DVC Shramik Union proposed to co-opt Com Rajib Tewari as member of the Working Committee vice K K Tripathi, who sought for relief from the responsibility due to problem in his family. Proposal was accepted.
17. Fund position of our organisation is not comfortable. Struggle Fund levied from the National Conference are not being paid regularly. Neither 5% of 1st month's increase through pay settlement/revision nor struggle fund @ Rs. 10/- per member per annum is not remitted save and except two/three organisations. AP proposed to pay 50% of their dues including struggle fund by four weeks next. All states were requested to set such example.
18. Working Committee greeted and applauded leadership of AP UEEU for their commendable hosting this WC meeting of EEFI with able guidance of CITU AP State Committee and expected further growth of the union by continuance of the zeal and spirit to unite electricity employees all over the state.

Rajib Tewari



(Prasanta N Chowdhury)
General Secretary