



## ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA

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### Circular

#### All Affiliated and Associated organisations All Office Bearers and Working Committee Members

A meeting of the EEFI Office Bearers presided over by Com K O Habeeb took place at BTR Bhawan, New Delhi on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018. Discussion and decisions of the meeting are being circulated for guidance and implementation of all EEFI affiliated and associated organisations:

1. **TU Schools:** General Secretary placed report on EEFI TU schools on the occasion of celebration of Karl Marx birth bicentenary and October Revolution centenary took place as scheduled on 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> July at Pondicherry and 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July at Faridabad for English and Hindi mediums respectively. Haryana leading a strong organisation AHPCWU has expectedly organised it in a befitting manner. Our Puducherry Unit (Puduvai Minsara Thozhilalar Sangam), being a tiny union organised the TU School well with support and guidance of our strongest Union COTEE. Appreciable level of logistical arrangement in both the venues helped EEFI centre to conduct the TU Schools on the occasion of celebration of 2<sup>nd</sup> birth centenary of Karl Marx and century of October Revolution. All the members of faculties deliberated well on the respective topics. Mostly the sessions were interactive. Feedback received from the participants was positive. They expected similar schools be organised more frequently. Both the Schools concluded with warm greetings and thanks to the host organisations and their supporting institutions as well persons from the General Secretary on behalf of EEFI centre. In English medium school all the organisations excepting Karnataka and KSEB Contract Workers Association took part. In Hindi Medium School Unions of Bihar, J&K, DVC, NTPC, smaller unions of WB, both Unions of Assam, Tripura, Maharashtra, all the unions of Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Odisha Bijuli Karmi Union did not attend. Our stronger unions have the culture of TU education. Now, it is expected that all the participant organisations will take up endeavour of propagating class consciousness to the members of respective Unions.

Puduvai Minsara Thozhilalar Sangam, so far kept themselves abstained from Regional / National activities of EEFI. After hosting this event, they are boasted enough and decided to take part in all the future activities of EEFI in State / Regional / National level.

2. **Preparatory Activities on Forthcoming wider struggle:** After 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of EEFI, EEFI Office Bearers were assigned State wise and Region wise responsibility. Some of them are interacting with the State and Region concerned, but most of them forgot of their assignment. Circular No. 07/2018 dated 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 was issued for monitoring the preparation for the forthcoming struggles and activities as assigned.

So far only 3 Organisations, AHPCWU (Haryana), HPBMEU (Himachal Pradesh) and Sahayak Union (WB) sent their reports in advance and copies were circulated in the meeting for information of the Office Bearers.

Besides discussion in OB meeting, planning for implementation of activities decided by NCCOEEE related to State/Lower Level Convention towards public awareness. As reported Kerala and Tamil Nadu are in the process of organising State and District Conventions involving all other NCCOEEE constituents in their States. Odisha has also



organised NCCOEEE meeting to chalk out NCCOEEE Programme/Activities. OB impressed on written detailed report both on the past activities and activities planned ahead. Constituents of vibrant National Federation like EEFI are to improve its quality and frequency of reporting.

Comrades from Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, AP reported their state activities including forthcoming wider struggle.

- 2A. **NCCOEEE Programme follow up:** It was gathered that all Central TUs decided to convene a National Convention of Workers on 28<sup>th</sup> September at Delhi. The convention is supposed to call for Two Day long National Strike to oppose policy of Modi Government. Date may be between Late November and Early December, 2018. EEFI leadership will discuss with NCCOEEE National Chapter towards coinciding Electricity Strike with General Strike of all Central TUs.
  3. **Mazdoor-Kisan Sangharsh Rally at 5<sup>th</sup> September:** As reported verbatim in the meeting, preparation for participation as well campaign among the larger section of Workers and Peasants is in progress. Campaign material prepared from the National level in English has been translated into local language for circulation among the Electricity workers as well common people. Most of the major organisations has issued public appeal to oppose the policy of Government towards extending support to oppressing class while creating avenues of acute exploitation. As transpired from the report of the Office Bearers took part in the meeting that participation of EEFI constituents is likely to exceed target of 10,000. Most of the participating organisations planned to join the rally with prominent identification marked in Caps / T-shirts with inscription of abbreviated name of the organisation / EEFI. Meeting of the Office Bearers decided that all the constituent organisations should carry their respective banner / flags / festoons highlighting different demands of the rally including opposing anti worker anti people policy of Modi Government as well scrapping Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014. EEFI centre should be kept informed in respect of nos. of participants, schedule of to and fro journey, and accommodation at Delhi. At the event of accommodation at different places name of one leader of the team including contact no. should be sent to EEFI Centre. EEFI constituents affiliated to CITU will also take part on 9<sup>th</sup> August movement and "Samuhik Jagaran" in association with state / district level organisations.
  4. **3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of TUI(Energy):** Progress for preparation of TUI Energy Congress was reported to EEFI Office Bearers. Energy workers from more than 30 countries from different continents are expected to take part. Assignment of EEFI delegation has been informed through Circular dated 29<sup>th</sup> June. **Names of Delegates** (in Block Capitals), Phone no., Mail id **should be sent to EEFI Centre by 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2018** indicating mode of Transport and Date and time of Arrival at Trivandrum. Requests from different organisations for allocation of further delegate have been received. EEFI Centre is not in a position to increase number of delegates. At the event of reluctance of any organisation to send name of delegate, allocated quota may be passed on to other interested EEFI constituent/s.
- An amount of Rs. 10/- per member towards cost of hosting the Energy Congress should be collected. All the constituents are to expedite transmission of Fund to EEFI centre towards holding the Energy Congress by 31<sup>st</sup> August.



Some Campaign Materials both in print and soft form has been circulated. Those can be multiplied and circulated with an Appeal to make the Congress a grand success.

**5. Struggle of EEFI constituents on Economic and Industrial demands:**

In the intervening period of past 6 months some of our organisations achieved their struggle. COTEE almost independently fought and won their struggle of wage settlement. Some of the organisations irrespective of their Colour, Allegiance and identity opposed tooth and nail throughout a span of one year. Whenever COTEE advanced to initiate united action, they were leg pulled. When COTEE resorted to Strike they opposed and sought for united struggle. COTEE deferred the strike and requested agreed upon date of strike. They declined to turn up. Finally COTEE led the strike and agreement was signed within a week of Strike. They came forward to sign the agreement.

Wage Agreement of Odisha covered a section of the employees. Some Discoms is yet to be covered. Our Union, took most important role. A.P. Struggle for regularisation of contract workers was notable. But treachery of some govt. sponsored union foiled the strike becoming successful through settlement. CITU state committees played important role to support striking electricity workers. In West Bengal also massive demonstration was organised in front of the Bidyut Bhawan between 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> July demanding wage settlement of regular and contractor workers as well opposing policies of State and Central Government as well scrapping Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

Telangana State United Electricity Employees Union with support of CITU State committee fought a valiant struggle. A few of the union called a strike from 21<sup>st</sup> July, with the demands of Contract / outsourced workers' pay revision. Authority tried to settle the issue highlighting struggle of Govt. backed unions. Our union did not issue the strike notice but informed the authority of their supporting the Strike. Govt. backed unions withdrew the strike against a Press Note. Our union continued the strike and planned a dharna before the Power Corporation Hqrs. Finally Chairman of The Power Company requested our union in writing to call off the strike and dharna following issuance of official order. Finally the strike was called off amidst victory sense of the workers. Copy of the official order is attached hereto.

It may kindly be noted that wage of contract workers of KSEB was comparatively high following their long struggle with support of strong Left movement there. But since issuance of judgement from Supreme Court towards Equal Wage for Equal Work, victory of Telengana Electricity Workers is significantly important. All our unions should cite this as an example to achieve their demands of Equal Wage for Equal Work.

Contract and casual workers of AP and Haryana are facing serious trouble following some court order. They are amidst continuous struggle to overcome the issue. Punjab is opposing the Government steps towards shutting down their power plants to widen scope of power purchase from private power producers.

- 6. Workshop on organisation:** EEFI National Centre will prepare a document on organisation for discussion and adoption in workshop to take place on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at Bhubaneswar (Exact venue to be communicated by a couple of weeks. Participation from all the



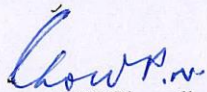
constituent organisations should be ensured. Nos. of participants from each organisation will be equal to total number of (Office Bearers + Working Committee) members. Responsibility of developing the document has been allocated among the EEFI Office Bearers. Written contribution in English / Hindi will be appreciated. All contributions are to be sent by **15<sup>th</sup> of September** par e-mail to enable EEFI centre to finalise the draft by 25<sup>th</sup> September.

(1) Electricity Workers movement- past and now (2) Expansion of organisation Past, Present and Planning for the future. (3) Changes in Electricity Industry from independence of the country up to date embracing technology, resources utilisation or exploitation for generation, transmission and distribution, commercial and aspects of consumer profile. (4) Changes in profile of workers i.e. regular, contract, casual etc. (5) Quality of organisation past, present and future, (6) Concern and comfort on reporting, communication language, (7) Campaign propaganda and organ embracing State and National Level struggle and activities. (8) Other topics related to organisation as deemed fit and proper.

Leadership of all the states are requested to send one page synopsis on item no. (1) Electricity Workers movement- past and now for the respective state either in English/Hindi.

Draft report on organisation will be E-mailed to Working Committee Members by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 for their study and preparation to contribute in the workshop towards improvement of the report.

7. **Working Committee Meeting:** An extended meeting of the Working Committee will take place at Bhubaneswar on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2018. Formal notice indicting exact venue and agenda will follow.
8. As planned earlier campaign through collection of mass signature in the petition addressed to Prime Minister opposing Electricity policy of the Government to be concluded by 30<sup>th</sup> June and to be sent to EEFI centre by 15<sup>th</sup> July has not been complied by any of the EEFI constituent. However, we should not give up the campaign. We may revise the plan and complete it by 30<sup>th</sup> September, so that we may submit those subsequently by the month of October. A report to EEFI centre on the progress by a fortnight will be appreciated.
9. Office Bearer appointed the auditor for the accounting year 2017.
10. Com. Ajay Mahapatra (WOBSM) and Com. Kalu Sahu (OBKS) has been co-opted in the Working Committee subject to ratification by WC.

  
(Prasanta N Chowdhury)  
**General Secretary**