

PGWFI & EEFI CALLS
Save Coal & Energy Resources
LET US STAND BY THE COAL WORKERS:

Petroleum & Gas Workers' Federation of India (PGWFI) and Electricity Employees' Federation of India (EEFI) being the two major constituents of unified movement of energy sector along with Coal Workers' Federation of India, in the country jointly and whole heartedly extend support to the 3 days' Strike resorted to by all the Coal Workers' Federations of the country. These Federations operating in Coal India and its subsidiaries served Notice on 18th June 2020 jointly for consecutive 3 days' Strike between 2nd & 4th July 2020 to oppose the retrograde decision of Government of India to transfer 41 Coal Blocks to private hands for commercial mining operation of. As a prelude, all the Coal Workers' Federations representing 100% Coal workers organised nationwide protest demonstration on 10th & 11th June 2020. Coal Workers along with members of their families took part in these demonstrations. Besides, the Coal workers, villagers of the coal belts, majority of whom are from tribal and backward communities, being anxious of their life and livelihood under profit hunting private sharks, who used to reign coal fields 5 decades ago i.e, pre-nationalised days, recollecting the horrifying mediaeval atmosphere from their parents & grandparents, voluntarily came forward to take part in the demonstration of 10-11 June last. Modest demand of the Coal Workers are

- withdrawal of the decision of Commercial Mining in Coal Industry
- Total halt on all steps towards weakening or privatization of CIL or SCCL
- Withdrawal of decision to De-link CMPDIL from CIL
- Enforce HPC/CIL enhanced wages to contract workers in CIL and SCCL
- Implementation of balance part of National Coal Wage Agreement.

RSS backed Modi Government, who are in the habit of shouting tall talks like ***Atmanirbharata (Self-reliance)*** has planned to sale the country to their indigenous and foreigner crony-capitalist allies. LIC, BPCL, NTPC, Air India as well Railways. Prime Minister himself has come forward to flag off the auction process with the submission that finally Coal has been unlocked from PSU clutches and is going to pioneer the country towards building a self reliant India. Under the backdrop, the Unions had no other alternative left with them but to go in for sustained protest and TU actions against the GOI decision. Valiant Coal Workers have pioneered to give the government a blow. On behalf of all energy sector employees of India PGWFI & EEFI convey warm greetings to coal workers and calls upon all constituents of energy sector organisations of workers to extend solidarity to their patriotic & struggling spirit against the pseudo patriots.

In the Petroleum sector, particularly in upstream, privatisation of discovered oil fields was started in 1997 under the policy of NELP which was closed in 2012. When Modi came into power, a new policy called OALP (Open Acreage Licensing Policy) was introduced in 2017 and fourth round of bidding has been completed. Through this policy, 91 oil fields belonged to ONGC & OIL have been auctioned and private companies got most of the fields. Under this policy, practically the interested parties need not have any past experience to qualify for bidding. The private parties are given the freedom to fix the prices of the crude oil and natural gases they produce and marketing thereof. The recent Baghjan blowout and fire incident in Assam is the result of the GOI policy on privatisation of oil fields.

The respective management ignored all the demands raised by the Unions to deploy skilled manpower and it's number to justify its job volume over there since long. It is clear that private monopolies do not care to cater the peoples' interest and no matter what the norms are, they will pay no heed to it just to maximise their profit. In other sectors also we have seen, time and again, the unscrupulous practices adopted by the private players destroying the national wealth. All Indians are aware what criminal offence; RIL had played in KG D-6 Gas basin scam with ONGC by daunted theft of Gas with the support of thief politicians.

In Power sector the GOI has opened its privatisation race from the initial days of neo liberal economy 3 decades ago with entry of ENRON with sovereign guarantee. Electricity Act, 2003 passed during NDA-1 Government, with promise of cheaper power. Tariff has gone up 6 to 8 times. Modi government floated the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020 within the lockdown situation when the country fights the COVID-19 pandemic. The only aim of the bill is to speed up the process of opening up the gate of Power Industry to the private sector. The GOI has taken the opportunity of lockdown situation when democratic movement in large scale in the country is practically blocked under the cover of Disaster Management Act, 2005. By enactment of the bill all the prevailing facilities enjoyed by the people like subsidy / cross subsidy are going to be abolished. Food security achieved with the benevolence of SEBs through four decades will be jeopardised. Poor farmers and the rural population dependent upon agriculture, medium and small enterprises will lose their livelihood. The bill mandates state Governments to pay subsidy through cash transfer to the consumers. It transpires when state Government will be incapable to pay, poor people will have to welcome the nights of darkness as well starvation. Seven states objected against the Bill. The draconian bill, if enacted, is going to curb the right to electricity for the whole of the toiling masses of the country living below the terminal and poverty line. All the National Federations of Electricity Employees & Engineers under the broad based forum NCCOEEE are on the path of struggle.

Considering all the evil designs of GOI to privatise the whole of the core industries of the country, throwing people to the hands of the giant private monopolies, both of our Federations, once again, extend our whole hearted support to the 5 point demands of the Coal Federations on which the strike Notice has been served.

Wish the coal strike a grand success in the nationwide struggle and convey revolutionary greetings to Coal Workers and their heroic struggle to save Nation's wealth like sustainable energy resources.



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New Delhi
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