

9th National Conference

Electricity Employees' Federation of India (EEFI)

A Brief Resume of the
National Conference held at Chandigarh
13-15th October 2022

The 9th National Conference of the Electricity Employees' Federation of India (EEFI) was held at Chandigarh on 13-15th October 2022.

The central slogan of the conference was
SAVE POWER SECTOR – SAVE INDIA.

9th National Conference, EEFI



The configuration of the Conference

The conference was attended by 364 Delegates representing 14 States and 4 UTs of India. Workers and Engineers from Generation, Transmission and Distribution Sectors comprising of various State and private Discoms, NTPC, PGCIL and DVC came from all over the country. Workmen of both regular and contract categories participated in the conference representing 45 Affiliated Unions of the Federation.

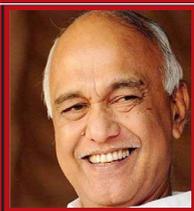
The conference took a serious note on the very poor ratio of the female delegates. It is an issue of encouragement to us that the Pensioners also participated in significant number who have served and guided the electricity movement of the country throughout their service period.

Com. Swadesh Dev Roye, Working President hoisting the Flag



Call of the Conference :

March to **Bijlee Kranti Yatra** at Delhi on 23rd November 2022



Elamaram Kareem, President
13-D, Feroze Shah Road,
New Delhi - 110 001



Prasanta N. Chowdhury,
Plot No. DE-62, New Town
N - 24 Pgs, W.B. - 700 156

Delegates from all over the India taking participation in the discussion

The Inaugural Session started with flag hoisting and paying tribute to the Martyrs' Column. Electricity Employees and Workers from All Haryana Power Corporations Worker Union gathered in a number to Welcome the Delegates coming from all over the country.

In the absence of the President Com. K.O. Habeeb on medical reason, Com. Swadesh DevRoye, Working President of EEFI delivered Presidential speech. He emphasised the strategic importance of electricity and responsibility of the Electricity Workers to resist the anti-worker,

anti - people, anti - national dispensation.

Comrade Tapan Sen, General Secretary, CITU pointed out the paradigm shift in the forms of attack from the ruling class in the name of National Monetisation Pipeline, so called Just Transition, Electricity Amendment Bill



Com. Tapan Sen, General Secretary, CITU greeting in the Inaugural Session



Com. Swadesh Dev Roye
Delivering the Presidential Speech



External Guests
Attending the Open Session Conference

2022 or the disastrous forms of irregular employments in the name of flexibility.

Fraternal constituent unions and associations of Electricity Workers and Engineers belonging to National Coordination Committee

of Electricity Employees & Engineers (NCCOEEE) greeted the conference with high expectations and enthusiasm. Leaders from Coal Federation and All India Agricultural Workers' Union greeted the inaugural session.

Deliberations on the General Report



Com. Prasanta N. Chowdhury, General Secretary, EEFI
Placing the Draft Report

General Secretary of EEFI Comrade Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury placed the report for discussion in Conference. The 223 pages' voluminous document-book consisting of GS Report, activity reports from states and Annexures was very rich, in-depth and wide in its content. The GS report covered International and National Power Sector issues with detailed record of struggle, the dominant emerging issues of

renewable energy and energy transition, technological changes and climate issues, power crisis, the challenges of disastrous onslaught unleashed by the current dispensation on public electricity sector and detailed organizational issues. Treasurer, Com. S.S. Subramanian placed the Audited Draft Account's Report for discussion and adoption in the conference.

Another issue of great concern came into the fore through discussion regarding the latest project of the Market Based Economic Dispatch (MBED) which will terribly affect the States' sovereignty by implementing 'One Nation, One Grid, One Frequency, One Price' policy. It will facilitate private REs over thermal power and finally after capturing the market, will enhance the tariff to market's interest level. It leads to constitutional, political and ideological attack on the Right to Electricity and Federal Structure of India.

The Inaugural Session

44 delegates representing all the constituent unions of EEFI took part in discussion for more than 500 minutes. The facts, figures and formulations featured in the General Report have received appreciation from amongst the participants in the debate. The jubilant deliberation from the Comrades of J&K attracted the rousing applause of the Conference when they depicted about their heroic struggle to save the state Discom. J&K state Discom was mischievously pushed for privatization just after the heinous abrogation of Article 370 was imposed on the state. The blueprint of Modi Government to Privatise the State Discoms in UTs got defeated disastrously by the resistance and defiance of the electricity workers with active participation and mobilization of people first in J&K, then in Chandigarh and currently in Puducherry.



Discussion on General Secretary's Report Started

The Delegate Session



Adoption of Resolutions & Reports

Placing the Accounts & Resolutions



Election of New Committee

17 resolutions were adopted including the clarion call of strengthening the workers'-peasants' unity, struggle against communalism, fight for gender equality, right to employment, against National Education Policy 2020 and struggle against draconian attack on UTs especially J&K. A special resolution was moved by Comrade Swadesh DevRoye to focus, emphasise and upgrade the struggle and movement of the contractual workers to a heightened and advanced level with greater militancy and spread throughout the country. After reply to the debate by the General Secretary, the Report and the Account's Report were adopted unanimously.

The Conference elected the National Working Committee with 60 members and 23 Office Bearers. Comrade E Kareem was elected as President, Comrade Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury was re-elected as General Secretary and Comrade S Rajendran as Treasurer of the Federation. The newly elected President concluded the conference with his deliberation. He appealed to all the affiliated unions to intensively campaign about the attack on Public Electricity Sector and to take the call of resistance to all electricity workers and people in general against this authoritative, communal, pro-corporate BJP Government.

List of Elected Office Bearers

SL. No.	Names	Designation
1	Elamaram Kareem	President
2	Swadesh Dev Roye	Working President
3	Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury	General Secretary
4	S. Rajendran	Treasurer
5	K O Habeeb	Vice President
6	Subhash Lamba	Vice President
7	Bela Patra (F)	Vice President
8	Deepa K. Rajan (F)	Vice President
9	T. Jaisankar	Vice President
10	D. Suri Babu	Vice President
11	Jiten Nandi	Vice President
12	S. Harilal	Vice President
13	Tarun Bharadwaj	Vice President
14	Suresh Rathi	Vice President
15	Vijayalakshmi (F)	Secretary
16	C. Unnikrishnan	Secretary
17	Arul Selvan	Secretary
18	MG Suresh Kumar	Secretary
19	Arindam Roy	Secretary
20	Avijit Roy	Secretary
21	Pranaya Nayak	Secretary
22	Harpal Singh	Secretary
23	V. Goverdhan	Secretary
24	Sudip Dutta	Secretary

Priorities

We initiated a detailed discussion on “Draft Document on Organisation” in our Working Committee Meeting held on 4-5 October, 2018 at Bhubaneswar and re-circulated it among the EEFI constituents for more rigorous and deeper study. Finally, the draft was placed before the extended meeting of the Working Committee held at Faridabad on 9-10 February, 2020. The updated Draft on Organisation, after incorporation of suggestions and opinions from all constituents, has been placed and passed in the 9th Conference along with the Draft Report of the General Secretary.

- A. The adopted Organisational Report has concretely discussed about the state and development of the organisation, both in qualitative and quantitative sense. EEFI now represents 15% of the Power sector employees in India. The 9th Conference has stressed upon the most crucial task to expand the organisation, and to bring in fold at least 25% electricity employees before the 10th Conference.
- B. This Conference has self-critically taken a serious note on the collective failure of the leaderships, including the OBs and Working Committee Members, to function in a regular, coherent and disciplined manner. We have to assure the attendance of the committee members from the very first meeting of the respective committees in the coming days.
- C. 9th Conference has repeatedly emphasised to improve the effective participation of the members of our unions in struggle and movement. Now we are proposing a target participation share to align and activate our members coherently & comprehensively in upcoming programmes :
 - (I) Participation in strike action percentage is mandatory and it should be 100% by our members
 - (II) Assured participation in the local level rallies / demonstrations should be at least 75% of our members
 - (III) Participation in the district level rallies / demonstrations should be at least 40-50%
 - (IV) Participation in state level demonstrations should be at least 20-25% of our membership strength
 - (V) Participation in Regional / National level Rallies must be 5-10% of our total membership.

We have to take a decision with fullest conviction to attempt and try to ensure the target proposed, upon which our organisational evolution can only be examined and improved. Our reporting should be more objective and quantitatively concrete.

- D. The proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 will cause havoc to the low end consumers. Hence our initiatives towards formation of Electricity Consumers and Employees forum as a permanent platform of struggle should be aptly taken care of. All the state units and its lower tier of committees have to be properly tuned with the importance and execution of this gigantic task. The states must share their experiences with the EEFI Centre and other states for effective coordination and progress of the process.

- E. We have failed to attain the desired spread, height and intensity of the struggle to achieve the demand of “Equal wages for Equal Works” for Contract Workers pending their regularization. It was adopted as task in the 8th Conference. Now this issue & other burning issues of Contract Workers have to be taken with utmost priority in coming days.
- F. We have annexed the Rome declaration of WFTU Congress, the declaration of 5th September Mazdoor Kisan convention, the document on climate change and some other much important working documents which are needed to be studied meticulously by our leadership at all levels. Our major state units should translate it into local languages (if not already available) and use them to enhance ideological and political awareness among our rank and file. Study Circle should be initiated by our affiliate unions for updating their organisers in a regular interval.

An Extended Working Committee meeting of EEFI will be held one day prior or post to the proposed date of Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally at Delhi during 2023 Budget session.

After full-length state level discussion and preparation in coordination with the NCCOEEE constituents, date of strike will be declared. EEFI will try to mobilise largest possible unity and participation in the strike action.

Com. Goutam Palit, Contract Worker and Secretary, Hooghly District Committee of Sahayak Karmi Union wrote a poetry on the festivity of celebration -

NECTAR – 75

Nonchalant skeletal bones stacked like bricks
Fail to smother vast spaces of defiant hunger
Our coward conscience cringes in terror of words,
But our Shoes march towards seventy-fifth freedom.

The teacher found the nectar of seventy-fifth
independence infected with untouchable water
Took the supple life of Indra Kumar, 9
Gurudakshina fetched at the cost of life.

Eternal venom of civilised society corrupt Innocent childhood-
Time passes in the long queues of ration-card holders
Cyclonic grievances fails to filter the air-
Lungs inhales polluted air of civilisation.

Solace of “Man ki Baat” clad in million rupee suit;
Fails to cope with the hunger, but crushes our
Near and dear under the gallows of religion.

Yet 75; crazy pride of 75 on the D-day;
Slavery greets best wishes
On the birthday of my child
Blue flame of sacrificial fire

Showers depression of homeless millions,
Writes symphony in the comet-studded sky
Fluttering flag of liberty flies away in my dream,
The shining dawn of 75 is stunted
By the dark hegemony of burnt bread.

Tasks and Struggles Ahead

1. The Conference has impressed upon to focus on two ensuing programmes before us:
 - A. The “Bijlee Kranti Yatra” is going to be held at Delhi on 23rd November, 2022 with the clarion call to SAVE POWER SECTOR, SAVE INDIA. In order to get all of our members involved in this historic struggle, EEFI calls upon to observe “SAVE POWER SECTOR, SAVE INDIA” week-long campaign programme between 16th & 23rd November. We have to plan and organise series of activities including squads, street corners, and public meetings at market places, railway stations, bus terminuses and other public areas during this phase.

Effective campaign materials exposing the disastrous consequences of the ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022 and the attack of privatisation in power sector are to be prepared and massively distributed among the consumers. Obviously the collection of struggle fund from the consumers for whole campaign process is an efficient campaign method to reach the people. The commencement of journey for participation in Delhi Rally should be ceremonious with public meetings in popular places.
 - B. The Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally is going to be held at the behest of CITU-AIKS-AIAWU at Delhi during Budget session of 2023. In this regard EEFI constituents have to observe a week long campaign on the common issues of workers, peasants and unemployed youths; the dates and campaign plan will be finalised very soon.
2. Implementation of all the above action require funds. Despite the serious need, we are not being able to raise the affiliation fees now. Still majority of our constituent unions are failing to pay 5% of one month’s enhanced wage for past years and failing to remit Rs.10/- per member annually in struggle fund. We have to take initiatives to ensure the deposition of dues within a stipulated period. We have to regularize our fund position before the 10th Conference which is likely to be held at the 40th year of foundation of EEFI in 2024 or 2025.
3. We have to activate the publication and campaign sub-committee to achieve the regularity and enhance the quality of our journal and campaign materials. EEFI constituents have to improve and regularise their communication skills in English or Hindi for sending report to EEFI centre. Name and contact details of the correspondent are to be sent to EEFI Centre for regular communication.
4. We need to focus and plan to enhance our membership and to reach the adopted target of 25%. For that we have to enable our constituents to enhance their capacity to intervene in day-to-day issues of the workers and to build movement over those issues.
5. The ratio of women workers in all categories in electricity industry is progressively increasing. We have discussed in our report about the power women of Tamilnadu, Kerala and other states. EEFI Centre will help its state units to develop their working women cells and the EEFI working committee will review its progress as proposed in the report.

6. 9th Conference has assigned the task of constituting a separate pensioner's wing of EEFI with appropriate organizational structure. We have to organise and give a shape of the pensioners wing within a stipulated time period. Similarly the state committees have to take initiatives with their respective constituents to build this wing at state levels.
7. We have to uphold the slogan of "Unity and Struggle" with its apt application in organizational practice and movement. We have to strengthen NCCOEEE, the broad base platform of Electricity Employees, Engineers working for last 22 years, with utmost sincerity and determination.
8. Besides our regular trade union activities, we have to enlighten and educate our members about their historic task to protect the rationality, fraternity and harmony in Indian society by ousting all the hatred sponsoring forces and their paid agents.
9. EEFI Centre has to create and regularly update a comprehensive information bank on power industry. This needs active participation and help from the state centres. Collection of the asked information from each of the Circle/ Division/ Projects is to be taken as a priority task.
10. Just transition has emerged as a cardinal issue in global energy scenario. It needs debate, discussion and coordination among different branches of energy sector workers to take appropriate position on it and to plan future strategy of struggle.

Leaders who left us after last Conference



*From the Left : Com. Shyamal Chakraborty, Com. S. Pancharatnam,
Com. V. Lakshmanan, Com. N. Kiran & Com. Nisha Roy*



*From the Left : Com. Debabrata Bindu, Com. Ashit Biswas,
Com. Karunamoy Batabyal, Com. Raghbir Singh & Com. R.C. Jagga*

Credential

Number of Total Participants	364
Number of Total Delegates	356
Number of Total Observers	08
Number of Male Participants	352
Number of Female Participants	12
Number of Guests	28
Number of States Represented	14
Number of UTs Represented	04



Com. S. Rajendran placing the Credential Report

Sector wise Participation:

Sector wise Participation	Nos.
a) Generation	18
b) Transmission	40
c) Distribution	306

Employment Status :

Employment Status	Nos.
a) Regular	303
b) Contract	24
c) Pensioner/Organiser	37

Nature of Work Done:

Nature of Work Done	Nos.
a) Technical	220
b) Non-Technical	144



Oldest & Youngest
Delegate
of the Conference

Com. PM Vartak

Com. Harpal Singh



Some special glimpses from the 9th Conference



Martyr Column



Cultural Performances by our Comrades

Felicitation



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Arrangements