



ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA

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CIRCULAR

Meeting of the EEFI extended working committee took place at Faridabad on 9th & 10th February, 2020. Com. K O Habeeb presided over the meeting participated by 42 Nos. of Comrades from 14 States and UTs. Comrade Habeeb in his presidential speech at the outset of the meeting recalled the discussion EEFI had in Bhubaneswar for development of organisation document on the part of EEFI. Major states are yet to respond. He also referred to the outcome of 16th Conference of CITU held at Chennai between 23rd & 27th January, 2020. He also briefly reported salient points of discussion, decisions and resolutions adopted. He drew the attention of Working Committee towards the grim national situation, 8th January, 2020 strike and nationwide struggle of the people towards sustenance of the unity and integrity of the country. Some of the EEFI constituents got them whole heartedly involved in the struggle and urged upon all to come forward in the path of struggle with all the members of the organisation. He also pointed out the present crisis in the national economy as well attack upon the people in so many fronts like death sentence of high performer PSUs and Secularism concurrently.

General Secretary in his report drew attention of the house to the situation in Kashmir. The state no more exists since it is divided in 2 UTs Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Com. Maqbool Gani and one from Ladakh have come. We shall hear from them the inhuman deal of the government. The vast population has been kept into dungeon. Our prime minister is lying continuously in the parliament about CAA, NPR, NRC. We are very sorry to state Prime Minister's statement in parliament has been expunged from proceedings of the parliament. This has never been taken place earlier. Our national assets under the soil are being sold. The shares of NTPC, NHPC, ONGC and likewise are disinvested widely making at stake of those Maharatna Navaratna companies.

Working Committee took stock of the budget proposal of the Finance Minister placed before the Parliament on 1st February, 2020 has failed to highlight any positive points for the common people, while business community has been given ample benefit. Budget remained silent on the issues of the workers when 25 crore workers drew the attention of the government and people through day long historic strike, only 3 weeks before the budget proposal.

Prescription of Finance Minister of India in Para 58 is very simple. India is having over 24 crores household and around 25 crores LT consumers through post paid meters, those will be converted to prepaid meters. Her prescription will simply place more than one lakh meter readers out of job. Concurrently, these prepaid smart meters will be convenient for private franchises to be engaged in the profitable distribution area. Cost of replacement of meters will be borne either by consumers or by government owned Distribution Companies. Benefit will be enjoyed by the private franchises. Balance loss making distribution area with a low consumer density will be served by government owned Distribution Company. Finally, poorest of the poor end consumers will lose their access to electricity.

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Similarly in Para 79, government has prescribed closing down of old Thermal Power Plants on the plea of high Carbon emission. This decision will pave the way for creating scope of business for the 40,000 MW capacity private power plants are seeking scope of business. Finance Minister has shown the plea of high carbon emission. We are to focus the blunder Narendra Modi did in Paris Climate Summit in 2015, when onus of high emission thrown upon India and China, the point of per capita emission has not yet been demanded. This closing down prescription of old government owned cheaper power generating Thermal Power Plants, reminds us the episode of making scope of generation for selling at high cost by Enron owned Dabhol Power Company. MSEB was compelled to keep their low cost power plants shutdown.

Decisions:

1. EEFI along with its constituent organisations always keep themselves in the main stream struggle of the workers and people traditionally from its inception 36 years ago. Accordingly days ahead to oppose the policy of the RSS dictated government will be shaken with vibrant storm and struggles. CAA / NPR / NRC are the issues of whole Indian community, of which EEFI with all its constituents and members of their families will loudly utter 'Hum Jawab Nahin Denge'. EEFI constituents will influence other electricity workers to join the mass movement planned for implementation all over the country. Working Committee decided to involve whole organisation in the path of struggle.
2. NCCOEEE has already decided to observe all India protest day on 11th February, 2020 to oppose the budget proposal of Finance Minister as well against Police atrocities on electricity employees and engineers by Bihar Police and withdrawal of suspension of Surendra Kumar, Executive Engineer as well General Secretary, PSEA Bihar. All EEFI organisations will observe the programme with due gravity of the situation. In respect of budget proposal of the government, we need to extend public contact over the consequence of the proposal. (During issuance of this circular, it is gathered that all major EEFI organisations organised the programme in a befitting manner).
Working Committee, on review of budget proposal decided to continue struggle opposing power sector privatisation plan of the Government. Privatisation of power sector will have serious impact on the low end consumers. Apprehension of end of access to electricity for the poor consumers cannot be denied. Working Committee suggested expansion the consumer movement, so that united forum covering electricity workers and consumers carry forward the movement. Implication of changes in the act or rules cannot be made out by the individual consumers. We may involve our retired employees and former leaders in the states to organise consumer forum in the villages, towns, districts and the states. Our isolated effort cannot yield result but united platform of electricity employees and consumers can go far ahead.
3. Working Committee took stock on development of organisation report. Bhubaneswar meeting of Working Committee held at on 4th and 5th October, 2018 decided that organisation document will be formally published incorporating the documents of major organisations. Target time frame was early part of year 2019. It was observed after one year that even the major organisations did not took the initiative to develop any such document. Some states had discussed but comprehensive document was not sent to EEFI centre. Working Committee decided that the states and major organisations who will send their document to EEFI centre by 15th May, 2020 will be included in the document to be published by the end of June, 2020.
4. Critical review of 8th January, 2020 strike was taken up by the Working Committee. Some (2/3) states evaded the strike and organised demonstration. Most of the states tried their best to make the strike successful. Some of the NCCOEEE constituents boycotted work in support of the strike.
5. Working Committee took up the issue of holding 9th national conference of EEFI. Last two conferences took place in the southern region. 6th conference took place in eastern region. EEFI does not have considerable strength in western region. Hence holding the 9th conference in northern region

becomes logical. Participants of working committee meeting from northern region also welcomed the proposal. It was decided that Comrade Subhas Lamba, our in-charge of northern region will convene a meeting by the earliest time to decide the venue and host/s. Both 7th and 8th conference took place in August. If the weather condition of the venue suits time frame may be kept in August. Otherwise immediate thereafter. No foreign delegates will be invited other than the General Secretary TUI (Chemistry & Energy). Agenda and basis of delegation will be decided in the next meeting of the working committee.

The draft report of the General Secretary will be placed for discussion and ratification by the members of the working committee. As report will be pre approved by the working committee members, delegates other than the working committee members will only take part on the debate over the draft report of the general secretary to be placed in the conference

6. Financial position of EEFI is not all healthy. EEFI being the most vibrant national level federation of electricity workers needs comfortable fund for its nationwide activities. But dearth of fund has become the main constraint to carry out its tasks at the desired level. As decided in the 7th conference of EEFI, all affiliates will contribute @Rs. 10/- per member per year in the Struggle Fund, besides affiliation fees. In addition, after each wage settlement in the electricity organisation, an amount to the tune of only 5% of first month's wage increases to be contributed in EEFI fund. Only a few organisations other than Kerala honoured this decision. Working Committee puts an appeal to all the organisations to come forward to remove Fund Constraint of EEFI.
7. Most of the EEFI constituents are not only active organisations but their militancy and vibrancies are comparable to none. Only activities on the field without publicity and focus to other section of comrades as records are futile, while we feel solidarity and fraternity as an important factor for broader organisation like industrial Federation. We understand limitation of our comrades for writing in Hindi/English. In present era necessity of long article/news report after holding a meeting/demonstration/rally has become avoidable. Only a few visual / audio visual clippings with brief caption with date and time is capable to carry your activities to thousands /millions of your comrades in all parts of the country. We fail to understand, why the organisations of Electricity Workers, the most advanced section of working class will lag behind. There is no doubt that, in every organisation there are expert young workers, who are competent to develop this clippings. They may not express through delivery of long speech before an audience of hundred, but there creation is capable to touch thousands or millions of electricity workers across the country. Please try to assign them organisational tasks.
8. Publication of our organ VOICE of Electricity Workers has been stalled since middle of 2019. For effective despatch of Printed Journals require correct address of the subscribers. In absence of correct address hundreds of copies are returned by the postal department. Hence, all EEFI constituents are requested to collect subscriptions with proper mailing address including PIN CODE so that we may resume publication of VOICE and despatch of those to the subscribers by the earliest possible time.

(Prasanta N Chowdhury)
General Secretary