

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES & ENGINEERS

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NCCOEEE/17/01

21st February, 2017

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya
Hon'ble Minister, Labour & Employment
Government of India
Shram Shakti Bhawan
Rafi Marg, New Delhi- 110 002

Sub: Equal Wage for Equal work for Electricity Employees of India

Sir,

Please recall our discussion at Kochi seeking your intervention on the captioned subject. We, on behalf National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE), a broad based platform of all major National Federations of Electricity Employees & Engineers intend to approach your busy desk.

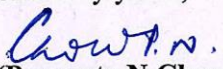
You are aware that Electricity is in concurrent list of the constitution of India. From the initial days of independent India, State Electricity Boards were assigned the responsibility of development of Electricity linking Socio-Economic development of our Nation. We gained a lot from that policy. A starving Nation has achieved Food security and all round development including livelihood standard of our countrymen.

Now, scenario has changed a lot. Private players got wide inroad in the Power sector besides state and central utilities. Affairs of Employment in Power Sector has become menacing by large scale engagement of contractual / casual employees in all perennial nature of jobs related to Generation, Transmission & Distribution of Electricity in gross contravention of contract labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. Presently 60% of the Employees in the industry are being exploited in the name of contractual engagement. Hardly any one of them are paid wages similar to regular employees of the utilities within the ambit of laws of the land. The Apex Court of India in the matter of Civil Appeal No. 213 of 2013 (State of Punjab and Others Vs. Jagjit Singh and Others) also endorsed the view in their judgment dated 26.10.2016. India is connected through National Grid across its length & breadth. Power generated in North-eastern India is wheeled to Delhi or Kerala. But wage pattern of the workers varies widely. Only uniformity is nature of exploitation.

In short, major section of the employees of Power utilities all over the country are fomenting with colossal grievances. National Chapter of NCCOEEE took up the issue for consideration in its meeting held on 3rd February at Delhi. No piece meal solution is likely to ease the problem. Hence, NCCOEEE decided to seek your intervention at the National Plain.

We request you to convene a meeting in your office at Delhi to review the situation in Power sector all over the country and ways and means of intervention on the part of Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

Thank you,
Sincerely yours,


(Prasanta N Chowdhury)

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