

No.

**9<sup>th</sup>/Oc/01/2023**

Date :

**04<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2023**

**To**

**Shri Eknath Shinde Ji,  
The Hon'ble Chief Minister  
Maharashtra**

Respected Sir,

**Withdraw the vindictive invoking of MESM Act 2017  
Your immediate Intervention to Resist the Granting of Parallel License  
of Distribution to Adani Electricity Navi Mumbai Ltd - towards pre-  
implementation of impugned Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2023**

We, on behalf of The Electricity Employees Federation of India (EEFI) - the National level Federation of Electricity Employees, want to impress upon your good office with great anxiety that more than 86,000 workers and employees of Maharashtra State Public Electricity Companies are now in 72 hours Strike Action from mid-night on date. The Strike is called by the United Forum of all 30 Trade Unions representing the workers and employees of Mahavitaran – the conglomeration of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited and Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited. Obviously the entire Maharashtra Electricity Sector is heavily under the grip of this Strike. Already up to 12 Noon today, various places of Maharashtra – Satara, Pune, Washim, Sinhadgad, Ratnagiri and many more are reported to be under electricity-cut.

Sir, it is most unfortunate that, instead of addressing the righteous concern of the Strikers and the people of Maharashtra, your government has issued an order being No. MESMA-2022/C.R.475/Energy-5 invoking undemocratic MESM Act 2017 to attack the Strikers and break the Strike. EEFI and its entire constituents throughout the Nation stand strongly beside the Striking workers of Maharashtra and condemn this act on the part of your administration. EEFI urges upon you to withdraw this oppressive action immediately.

This unwanted situation arose - as Adani Electricity Navi Mumbai Ltd. (AENML) a 100% subsidiary of Adani Transmission Limited (ATL) has applied to Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) for a parallel power distribution license for Mulund, Bhandup, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Panvel, Kharghar, Taloja and Uran – the lucrative revenue-potential regions of the entire State; as there was strong apprehension among the workers, employees and consumers that by maliciously invoking the modified rules upon Section 14& 15 of the Electricity Act 2003, the MERC may grant parallel license to Adani Group to amass profit from these cherry picking areas; as this blatant hand-over of Maharashtra Public electricity service to Adani will adversely impact low end consumers out of total 2.8 crore of the state specifically those with average consumption below 100 units, agricultural pumps, public street lights, water supply, government offices, etc. and as the comparative average tariff of Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd. (AEML), the sister concern of AENML) is much higher than Maharashtra State Supply, while serving highest consumer density area.

Sir, we want to inform you that this is not any abrupt step on the part of the workers. It is a culmination of the long-ongoing united protest-struggle of Maharashtra electricity employees against the heinous plot of introducing Adani Group in distribution service of Navi Mumbai's Bhandup Circle. Several appeal and objections have been raised to the appropriate authorities by the Trade Unions, public forums and associations representing the electricity consumers. The protestors were in continuous struggle for more than two months. They expressed their objections through a series of agitation programmes starting from a pen-down strike to repeated demonstrations of state-wide protests by thousands of employees in front of the offices of Mahavitaran at Bhandup, Thane, Mulund, Panvel, Taloja, Uran, Navi Mumbai and many more places.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, more than 35,000 permanent and contractual Maharashtra State Electricity workers took the street and marched towards the Nagpur Legislative Assembly to seek the intervention of the government to hold-upon this nefarious act. Unfortunately Police blocked the peaceful march. Then a strong 10,000 workers' march ceased the Thane city on the very first working day of this New Year, the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023. But MERC failed to pay any heed to their just concern and demand. Certainly there was no option left for the struggling workers except going for Strike to save the Maharashtra State Public Electricity Sector from the claws of Adani!

Sir, you must be aware of the fact that the Torrent Power has also applied for parallel licenses at Kalyan, Vasai, Pune, Nagpur, Pimpri Chinchwad Ministry Corporation and also a big Chakan MIDC near Pune. Tata Power has submitted an Expression of Interest (EoI) to Government of Maharashtra

for taking over the electricity distribution of Aurangabad, Jalana and Bid on PPP basis. More than 50% of the total electricity revenue earning of Maharashtra comes from these areas in MSEDCL. The whole Maharashtra State Public Electricity system is under heinous attack from all the corners.

Sir, in its written Objection submitted to MERC, the Maharashtra Rajya Swabhiimani Vidyut Workers' Union, an affiliate to EEFI, has categorically mentioned that

- a) The petition filed by AENML and Adani Transmission Ltd. (hereinafter ATL) is misinforming, misguiding, incomplete, incorrect and ill-intended in many senses,
- b) The petitioner - Adani Electricity Navi Mumbai Ltd. is a paper company with no experience in electricity distribution,
- c) ATL, the parent company of AENML is allegedly burdened with a debt of Rs 13,500 crore from another company as per their claim put in the month of September 2022 in Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration,
- d) The solvency certificate of ATL with a claimed figure of Rs 3500 crores may be financially inaccurate,
- e) The tariff of AEML, the sister concern of AENML is much higher than the MSEDCL,
- f) The parent company ATL is in year-on-year growing debt for last 5 years and under severe question of financial sustainability,
- g) The power sector sister concerns of ATL in Adani Group, such as Adani Power or Adani Green are even in more critical and unstable financial conditions, as they are functioning at low capacity and may be considered as underperforming assets

These above are strong, valid and justified objections as under section 14 (Grant of License) of Electricity Act 2003 the Granting of License to any petitioner requires the compliance relating to the **capital adequacy, credit-worthiness, or code of conduct**. The above AENML undoubtedly fails to provide the compliance over these conditions.

Sir, the National Electricity Policy 2005 (notified under Section 3 of Electricity Act 2003), the Guiding Principle for Maharashtra State Electricity Regulatory Commission asserts that *Electricity is an essential requirement for all facets of our life. It has been recognized as a basic human need. It is a critical infrastructure on which the socio-economic development of the country depends. Supply of electricity at reasonable rate to rural India is essential for its overall development.* We apprehend that this socio-political outlook over Electricity will be brutally mutilated if AENML is granted authority to extract profit from citizens of Maharashtra.

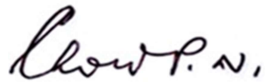
Sir, Maharashtra State Electricity Regulatory Commission is a Commission constituted by the Maharashtra State Government under the Section 82 of the Electricity Act 2003, The Chairperson and Members of the State Commission are appointed by the State Government. *The State Commission shall ensure transparency while exercising its powers and discharging its functions & In discharge of its functions, the State Commission shall be guided by the National Electricity Policy, National Electricity Plan and tariff policy [(3) & (4) of Section 86, Electricity Act 2003].*

Sir, you being the Administrative Head of the Maharashtra State, we request your immediate intervention over MERC in support of the just demand of the electricity workers, employees and consumers of your State. Your active initiation to save the Public Electricity Distribution Utilities and hence the Right to Electricity for all citizens of the State of Maharashtra is urgently required. Instead of addressing the just concern of the people, if Maharashtra Administration highhandedly tries to break the Strike, or tries to engage the Electricity Employees of other States as mere mercenaries against own Striking Employees and Workers, it will be disastrous and will lead to more complex situation farther. You might have known that already more than 2 million electricity employees and engineers are on the street in support of their Maharashtra fraternity, as the issue is not only of Maharashtra but an integral concern of whole India.

Hope we have been able to communicate our grave concern over the current situation to impress you to adopt prudent step to save the state owned power Industry of India.

Thank You.

Sincerely Yours,



(Prasanta N. Chowdhury)  
General Secretary