

ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA

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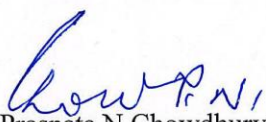
Government plans to snatch away Right to Electricity for the Pooors

Former Power Minister tabled the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 in Loksabha on 19th December, 2014. Upon serious objections of the members of opposition, the Bill was sent to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy. Almost all the State Governments along with all National Federations of Electricity Employees and Engineers of Power Sector objected to the draconian Bill. Parliamentary Committee took hearing of interested business community only, not the National level organisations of Electricity Employees and Engineers. National Co-ordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEEE) comprising all the organisations of workers and engineers gave call for strike / work boycott on 8th December, 2015. 20,000 electricity employees and engineers demonstrated before the venue of Power Minister's conference scheduled on 6th November, 2015 at Kochi. Reluctant former Power Minister initiated discussion with the aggrieved leaders of NCCOEEEE and requested them for settlement through discussion. Subsequent discussions were held in Delhi but remained inconclusive. The present Power Minister has not yet opened any dialogue on the issue even after modest requests.

Statement of present Power Minister R K Singh has come out in National Dailies on 4th December, 2017. Electricity Employees Federation of India vehemently oppose the game plan on the part of the Government to curb the Right to Electricity for the economically backward people of India. The intention of the Bill is to extend benefit to well offs at the cost of crores of poor people all over the country at the disguise of allowing consumers to switch off power service companies like mobile phones. Power Industry is going through doll drum Situation, when more than 50% of installed generating capacity kept idle due to paucity of demand, while 30 crore people of India have no access to Electricity. So many tall talks of **UDAY** and **SAUBHAGYA** Schemes are propagated in the style of "**Achhe Din Aanewale Hai**" to befool our countrymen. Government is going to amend the Electricity Act again but is reluctant to disclose outcome of Electricity Act, 2003 with the promise of reduction of cost through competition among the private companies, improvement of efficiency. Final outcome is accumulated loss of all the DISCOMs over 4.3 lakh crore in addition to debt burden over 5 lakh crore, while tariff is touching the sky. Three fourth of the electricity workers are being exploited by the contractors. Their fate has recently been focused through NTPC Unchahar Massacre at the cost of 46 lives.

Electricity workers will be compelled to oppose the anti-people, anti-worker, steps of the Government by resorting to wider form of movement to the extent of national level strike, if the Government sticks to its obstinate stand.

K O Habeeb
President


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