

# **ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA**

**BTR BHAWAN, 13A, ROUSE AVENUE, NEW DELHI – 110 002**

13<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

## **Reporting Points On 8<sup>th</sup> National Conference**

1. 8<sup>th</sup> National Conference of EEFI took place in Hyderabad between 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. This Conference resolved to put clarion call upon Electricity Workers to Ensure Right to Energy for All and to develop struggle towards ending worst possible exploitative contractorisation in Power Industry.
2. Electricity Employees' Federation of India (EEFI), the most vibrant All India level federation of Electricity Workers and Employees hold Venue of the conference was named as Com. Habibulla Nagar and Com. Murari Bose Manch. 389 delegates and observers including 15 fraternal delegates took part in the conference from 22 states.
3. Inaugural session of the conference was attended by all national level fraternal organisation like All India Power Engineers' Federation, All India Federation of Electricity Employees, All India Powermen's Federation & other organisation associated to National Co-ordination Committee of Electricity Employees & Engineers (NCCOEEE). Com. K O Habeeb, President of the Federation hoisted the EEFI Flag amidst sky blowing slogans and melody of songs. All the leaders present placed floral tribute to martyrs column.
4. Conference was formally inaugurated by Com. K Hemlatha, President of CITU. She inspired the participants of the conference to pledge their fullest sincerity & devotion to combat the adverse situation created globally by the imperialist-capitalist duo and nationally by their counterparts in India in the form of communal, divisionist, fundamentalist, separatist, anti people – anti working-class forces. She also called the EEFI & its constituents to come forward to implement the decision adopted by the National Convention of workers, held at Delhi on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. This struggle will have to be developed in such a magnitude, that the Government will have to opt either to change their anti people policy or to quit.
5. Delegate session was presided over by the presidium headed by Com. K O Habeeb. General Secretary's report was placed by Com. Prasanta N Chowdhury. Three major points covered in the report was explained by him while presenting the report. Those are policy of the Government towards curbing right of the people to have access to Energy in general, Electricity in specific. More than 50% of installed generating capacity is being unutilised barring a few peak hours of the day. Projected growth is showing negative trend. It indicates that claim Modi Government regarding escalation of growth rate is nothing but hoax. Series of scams in the Energy sector including exploitation of Energy resources has unveiled real face of Narendra Modi's war against corruption (bhrastachar). Government of India claimed UDAY scheme has become successful towards

huge reduction of AT&C loss, as well reduction of debt burden of DISCOMs. In fact, the burden was shifted from DISCOMs to State Governments. No benefit of cost reduction has been passed on to consumers. Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 is posing threat to consumers of rural area. If the Bill is enacted and the Distribution business is split into two separate business of carriage and content, profit mongers will rush for the revenue potential urban areas, scope of cross subsidy will be eliminated. By that way rural consumers will be burdened immensely.

6. The conference had a separate session on the situation in the industry related to workers engaged through contractors, jobs outsourced, franchised. Fresh recruitment of Electricity workers is being averted and more and more number of contractor workers is being engaged for the skilled jobs. All of them are being paid at a wage rate, which is far below than that of the principle of Equal Wage for Equal Work within the ambit of Laws of the land and dictum of Supreme Court. Two specific resolution on Implementation of Equal Wage for Equal Work, formulation and Implementation of specific schedule for Electricity workers within the ambit of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and Action plan against gross exploitation of workers engaged through contractors, jobs outsourced, franchised. The Action Plan will start from submission of memorandum to Chairmen of Electricity Utilities through mobilisation of workers at the lowest level on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 (i.e. the 365<sup>th</sup> day after Supreme Court Judgment dated 26.10. 2016. Subsequently the programmes of demonstration and submission of memorandum to different higher authorities at the level of division, district / circle will be resorted to. Loot of Energy resources by Adani, Ambani, Tata, Jindal, Goenka brethren will be exposed. Public awareness campaign against the game plan of Modi Government towards curbing the right to Electricity in various means and ways will be continued throughout the country by the EEFI constituents. Next phase of action will start through submission of memorandum to Chief Minister and Prime Minister from demonstration at State capitals. At the event of reluctance attitude shown from all the authorities above. Mass petition will be sent to Hon'ble Chief Justice of respective High Court and Supreme Court. If all above constitutional authorities is found reluctant and bear with gross departure of Laws of the land, verdict of the Apex Court, the workers will have no other alternative than to resort to the path of strike. On 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018 the nationwide strike of Electricity workers will take place. On 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 the notice of the strike will be issued from all EEFI constituents. Conference decided independently to go ahead but scope of joint movement will be kept open. In order to involve all the Electricity workers in this historic struggle suitable modification will be done through discussion of all the Trade Unions in Power Sector. (Elaborate Action Programme adopted is enclosed hereto)
7. Com. Tapan Sen, General Secretary, CITU greeted the conference on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. He welcomed the historic decision of the conference to call Nationwide struggle to protect and achieve further the rights and interest of Working Class as well Electricity at affordable cost for the people of our

country. He appreciated various aspects dealt in the report of the General Secretary and invited the delegates to use the information packed in the report as a tools and weapon of struggle. He inspired the delegates to organise the Electricity workers in huge number for taking part in the Maha Padav at Delhi between 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. This struggle is an initiative to teach the Government the result of ignoring people, after sitting in the port folios of union ministry. In order to make Maha Padav before the Parliament state and organisation wise participation programme has been planned. All the organisations from far and near will make best effort to achieve their target. Travel and logistical planning should be informed to EEFI Centre well in advance. However, participation of EEFI will cross the target of 16,000. State wise target is attached hereto.

8. 35 delegates took part in the debate upon report of the General Secretary. 24 delegates took part in the discussion on the resolutions on contractor workers issues and action plan there upon. Conference adopted the General Secretary's report, report of Treasurer and audited accounts along with 12 other resolutions.
9. The conference elected Working Committee consisting 90 members. 25 Office Bearers were elected. Com. K O Habeeb was elected as President, Com. Swadesh Devroye as Working President, Com. Prasanta N Chowdhury as General Secretary and Com. S S Subramanian as Treasurer. Com. K O Habeeb, in his concluding speech appreciated the spirit of Comrades of Telengana and greeted them for successful completion of the conference. He also greeted leaders and members of CITU as well people of Telengana and the organisations who came forward to make the conference successful.
10. Comrade K.O. Habeeb in his concluding speech referred to plan of the imperialist countries in comparison and preferences of different source of Energy in the business interest of MNCs in the power sector. The recent propaganda of renewable energy sources especially solar, wind etc in comparison with conventional sources like coal & petroleum is an example. The proponents of solar power claims that cost of solar power are falling rapidly and new technologies are developing which will create further reduction in cost and it is environment friendly etc. They are comparing the cost of solar power with coal based power. The argument against coal fired plants is emission of carbon which is affecting the climate. Commercial thermal power plants sell power at Rs. 1.77 per unit onwards. This is without subsidy and special encouragement as given to solar generation. Even then because of the hectic campaign unleashed by the government and multi-national companies and its agents. Large scale installation of solar parks are building by government agencies as well as private agencies. Due to this demand is decreasing in the coal based plants. Technologies are imported to reduce green house emission. Two methods are using for reducing carbon emission. One is carbon capture (utilisation) and

storage other is advanced ultra super critical technology. China is shifting to clean coal technologies and not departed from coal based power generation.

**11.**Conference concluded to carry forward the struggle from the ambit of the industry and interest of its employees to wider section of the people across the Country:

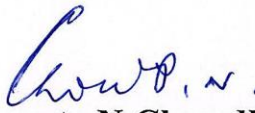
A. Government is posing to do its best to provide Electricity for all, the fact behind is the entire object of the Government to make Power sector wider play ground for the private profit mongers. Our foremost task is to unveil the game plan of the Government before the people. Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 will be one of the major tool in that direction. EEFI will develop campaign and agitation its own at the national level besides united action in association with NCCOEEE constituents. All our organisations will also develop such action plan in its workplace as well respective districts, projects and states. 7th Conference raised the demand of Right to Electricity for All, what will not be achieved unless we are able to merge our struggle with the struggle of the people.

B. National Convention of workers involving all Central TUs, National Federation took place at Delhi on 8th August. It has given clarion call for wider movement of the working class of India to raise their voice in peak to protest anti people, anti worker policies of the Government. EEFI along with all its constituents will put their fullest endeavour to make the movement successful in every level. All the Central Trade Unions of the Country including industrial federations will mobilise their members in front of the Parliament between 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November, EEFI will participate with 16,000 members. A good number of informative handbills, pamphlets, booklets will be published to carry the issues of the struggle before the workers and peoples. All the EEFI Constituents will plan accordingly to book travel and accommodation at Delhi. Less than 10% of our members will take part in the Maha Padav at Delhi but we shall have to propagate the issues of the movement along with obnoxious game plan of the Modi Government to protect the interest of capitalists at the cost of plight of the workers toiling with meagre earning and snatching of all the rights of the workers earned through struggle of a period over a Century. Campaign materials issued are to be translated into local languages for wider circulation.

C. Our demand of wage settlement through bipartite collective bargaining mechanism towards long term settlement is yet to be achieved. This demand is a matter of long standing struggle. We are to pursue till it is achieved.

- D. Our demand to make an end of contractorisation in the perennial nature of work, as well Equal Wage for Equal Work was placed before Central Labour Minister by EEFI National Centre. Similar demand along with movement is to be continued in all the states. Copies of memorandum placed before the authority concerned are to be developed by EEFI National Centre. We must not forget that some demands can be achieved through struggle with the employer only. But situation, sometimes requires legal intervention. Legal action without any documentation cannot be initiated. Government is in hurry to modify or repeal the existing labour laws. We are to oppose all these moves on the part of the Government. Hence, documentation of Memorandum, MOM and Agreements are essential part of our struggle.
- E. Statutory compliance for the contractor workers of the power utilities lies upon the principal employer i.e. power company. Labour departments of the Appropriate Government should not be spared. Procedural industrial dispute should be raised in all the suitable matters as indicated in the comprehensive action plan adopted in the Conference.
- F. All our Unions of permanent workers should take proper care with seriousness on all the issues of contractor workers, considering those of prime importance. Combined thrust of both the unions will impress the management to follow right track.
- G. Our demands related to safety, should not be kept confined within raising formal demands. In order to achieve appropriate standard for operation and maintenance of Electricity Generation, Transmission and Distribution, management of the utilities are to be pressurised hard. We cannot compromise with death of 15 Electricity workers per day across the country.
- H. Electricity Act and Rules thereof along with regulations or codes are being made complicated in the name of transparency. End consumers cannot avail benefit of the so called consumer friendly regulations cannot be utilised by common people. We shall have to gather knowledge and proficiency to protect the interest of consumer. Support to consumers or forum of the consumers may be extended by EEFI constituents. What will pave the way for developing relation with the consumers.

- I. Regional level TU schools will be organised by EEFI centre in association with the organisation of the host state to observe by centenary of Birth of Karl Marx and centenary of Great October Revolution. Dates and venue will be finalized immediately after conference. All EEFI constituents will also celebrate Karl Marx Birth by Centenary and October Revolution Centenary in a befitting manner.
- J. All our unions are to make effort to develop down the line leadership with proper hierarchical planning. Class Struggle of the country is intensified through movement of Workers engaged in strategic sector like energy, transport, communication etc. We must have to concentrate on quality as well quantified expansion of our organization, keeping overall responsibility lies upon us. All our unions should prepare suitable plan for expansion of the organisation. A copy of the expansion plan is to be transmitted to EEFI Centre. Comprehensive plan of all the states will be placed for discussion in the OB and Working Committee Meeting for implementation all over the country.
- K. All EEFI affiliated organisation should constitute a co-ordination committee on working women in Electricity Industry. Problems of the women employees should be taken up for discussion in the committee. State / District level organisation should take up the issues of women employees for discussion. As deemed fit and proper necessary intervention of appropriate authority sought for. Report of activities of this Electricity Women coordination committee should be sent to EEFI centre. Suitable Write up may be sent for publication in our organ.
- L. All the EEFI affiliated organisations should arrange Conference Reporting meeting for our down the level organisational units. Our state / District leaders should address these meetings. Essence of the call of the conference including our Action Plan should be propagated among our members as well Electricity Workers.

  
(Prasanta N Chowdhury)  
General Secretary