

ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA

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EEFI Press Release on Unchahar Explosion

Unchahar Explosion Exposes Notoriety of NTPC Labour Policy

EEFI univocally condemn NTPC Labour Policy, so far exploitation of contractor workers is concerned. Off late attention of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) was drawn against exploitative Labour Policy of this Navaratna Central Power Utility on 23rd May, 2017 in the conciliation meeting called by CLC(C).

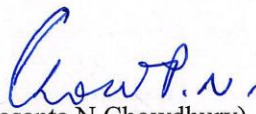
Unchahar explosion has not only exploded a boiler. In fact it has exposed unfair Labour Policy of Government of India of which NTPC is a show case model. NTPC has not yet stated the term explosion. Only expression so far came out from them, is of sudden abnormal sound due to blast in Ash Pipe of a 500MW unit. What is nothing but a cock & bull story nice for swallowing by common non technical people, who does not know the difference between combustion and explosion. Ash is a bye product of combustion. Hence, explosion in the pipe carrying ash is not at all possible.

It has been revealed that NTPC engaged workers (obviously majority is workers engaged by the contractors) to break huge clinker formed at the bottom of the furnace running with temperature above 2000^oC. Reason behind the explosion is most unsafe and unlawful direction issued by the operation & maintenance authority to break the clinker through manhole of the furnace. Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 debars engagement of contract workers in operation and maintenance work. NTPC earns profit from the exploitation through engagement of 90% contractor workers in operation and maintenance jobs.

Most ridiculous decision has come out from the Government to entrust NTPC management to conduct the enquiry to unveil the facts behind the explosion causing death of around 30 workers and more than hundred in critical conditions are under treatment in hospitals. This hoax is nothing but engaging a criminal to issue judgment to find out the reason behind crime.

All the boilers are having protection of vacuum switch to ensure tripping of MFR (Master Fuel Relay) to stop ingress of fuel at the event of wide variation of furnace pressure to avert explosion. Was the vacuum switch or MFR kept in-operative?

EEFI and its constituent organisations will demonstrate in Power installations on 3rd November, 2017 all over the country demanding judicial enquiry by a committee comprising of at least three retired Chief Inspector of Boilers from three states headed by a sitting judge of Supreme Court of India.


(Prasanta N Chowdhury)
General Secretary