



# VOICE

OF ELECTRICITY WORKERS

Organ of Electricity Employees  
Federation of India

Oct - Dec 2018, Jan - Mar 2019



**Struggle to Toggle the Policy**



People's Energy for New Kerala Workshop Organised by KSEB Workers Association



# VOICE

OF ELECTRICITY WORKERS  
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## Struggle to toggle the policy



People of India faced lots of hardship following formulation of anti-people policy from the era of British rule till date. Trivial relief from hardship could be earned only through series of protest and struggle of people. Whenever ruling class was cornered by the peoples' movement, they became afraid and tried to discover some escape route. Sometimes they used parliamentary majority to legislate oppressive laws like ESMA, MISA, TADA or UAPA. On some occasions they use to avoid Parliament and issued ordinance to curb the democratic right of the people. It is not possible to issue clean chit to any of the capitalists backed political party to be spotless in this respect. Only one distinct difference between Congress & BJP can be noted that BJP use communal card to divide people in the name of caste & religion, Congress barring some exception keep it abstained form that ugly practice. Both are keeping common practice of snatching away right of the people to protect the interest of their capitalist Supremes. Sometimes, internal security hazard or defense from external enemy was cited as reason. People of our country declared war against the anti-people policy. Modi tried to take plea of war with Pakistan as an escape route. Whatever credit our Army, Navy and Air Force earned, Modi and his drummers try to rig into his credit. Some dare to assign Gallant Indian forces as Modi Sena, how monarchial audacity! None in our independent country termed our forces as slave of any individual. Hence, it is the time to discuss on war. War was started five years back when RSS led BJP projected

Narandra Modi as their Prime Ministerial candidate. A person, who not only declared but virtually fought war against Muslims in Gujarat, war against constitution of India, war against Unity of India, war against Integrity of India, war against sanctity of Federal structure of India became Prime Minister. Right from Parliamentary Election Campaign in 2014 this person extended war against simplicity of Indian people with the promise to give Rs.15 lakhs each grabbing black money of Indians kept hidden abroad, promise of 2 cores of jobs each year, promise of war against unemployment, promise of war against corruption, promise of war against hunger, promise of war against poverty, promise of war against price hike. Nearly 1/3rd of our simple, sagacious & sensitive countrymen swayed with these flood, waves, tides, cyclone or Tsunami of promises and cast their votes in favour of BJP and its allies, totally forgetting "Feel good Factor" of former NDA government.

During five years' tenure of Narendra Modi, he continued his war against poor peasants, farmers, agricultural workers, daily wage earners in various formal and informal sectors of economy, industrial workers & employees under veil of Tall Talks and confusing slogans on the part of government. Eternal and edgy conflict between labour and capital he eased with the slogan "Shrameba Jayate". People got confused and conceived that government is going to do something for workers. In practice the web portal allowed business community to evade labour statutes. "Ease of making" business was nothing but to create an ambience of labour law reforms to curb the right of workers and labour codes through abolition of age old Acts and rules legislated through struggle of a couple of decades. "Make in India" was a method of back door invitation to capitalists by assuring lowest level of wages. Flexibility of labour laws and binding of fixed term employment, new era of bonded labour was re-introduced.

This phase of war against workers and peasants were retaliated by nationwide struggle of all categories of workers and peasants. Indian peasants and working class fought independently and together against policy of the government towards cost to public and profit to capitalists and feudal lords, for mutual benefit. Direction of all the steps of the Government was similar. All the projects declared by the Government prefixed with PM including demonetisation and GST created opportunities for the billionaires and hardship for the rural and urban daily wage earners. Serial suicide of lakhs of debt trapped farmers, and innumerable starvation death all over the country did not touch the softest corners of the Government. Those were not at all their cup of tea. They cared a fig on the

death of poor people of India, while their only concern was lives of cow and construction of temple of Rama. Maha Padaow at Delhi, Mazdoor Kissan sangharsh rally to Parliament, Kisan rally from Nasik to Mumbai and National level Strike by all the trade unions on 2nd September in successive two years as well 8th & 9th January, 2019 with participation of 18-20 crores of workers.

Modi opened war against Mix Economy cherished from the initial days of independent India, while Core sectors of economy like production of steel, Fertilizer, Petrochemicals, Energy, Transport, and Communication and so on with public sector. Only minor sectors left for private business. Utilisation of Indigenous resources converted Indian economy to more or less self sufficient. BSNL, HAL, BHEL, Air India are the symbol of Nationalism. Modi declares himself as Nationalist but opened flood gate for disinvestment of PSUs. All these decision are not to favour people of India. This war on economy he fought against people of India to favour Adani-Ambani-Tata and other allies in the capitalist lobby. Financial reports from economic journals and papers some times published obnoxious favoritisms to Modi-backed business tycoons. Some were suppressed before publication. Editor of Economic & Political weekly was removed from his job, simply to publish report of the corrupt practice of Adani Power to escalate the cost of coal import to grab more profit from its Mundra Power plant by cheating people of 10 states signed PPA with Adani. In last 2 weeks of tenure of Narendra Modi, lots of favorite gifts were exchanged between BJP & those who paid huge amount of legalized bribe in the name of Election Bond. One such gift to Adani is Power sector SEZ in Godda, Jharkhand amending the SEZ guidelines on 9th January and awarding first SEZ power plant on 25th February. Cream of UMP Projects has been completely eaten up, now SEZ is projected as new sources of profit. Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2018 is an attempt to curb right to electricity for the poor people of India while guarantee for more profit to greedy private players in power sector.

This election to 17th Lok sabha is to be converted as a war against travesty of democracy, state backed communalism, disintegrating people of India, attempt to destabilization of economic self-reliance, ultimate danger of sovereignty of our country. Hence, all of us to join this struggle to toggle the policy. Hence, all power men, all patriotic Indians are to rise on the occasion.

Deafeat BJP led NDA, Elect more Left Parliamentarians to form a secular Government to save the democracy of India.

## ‘Mission Reconnect’ – A Success Story from KSEB Ltd.

15th August 2018 was a dark day for the people in Kerala as severe floods affected the entire state due to an unexpected and extremely heavy rainfall. The worst flooding in Kerala after 1924 caused the evacuation



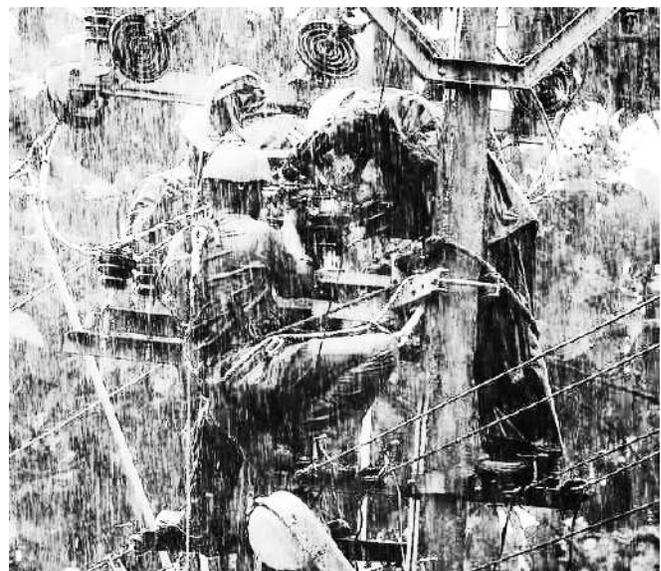
of 15 lakhs of people and over 483 people died. 14 districts of Kerala were placed on red alert and almost 1/6th of the total population had been directly affected by the flood or flood related calamity. All the eighty two dams in the state were opened for the first time in the history. Heavy rains in Wayanad and Idukki districts had caused severe land slides and left these hilly districts isolated.

The heavy monsoon rain fall was unusual and it was almost 250% higher than what was predicted by Indian Meteorological Department. As per the report of the Central Water Commission, the total rain fall received from August 15th to August 17th is 414 millimetre. The calculated water flow due to this rain is 12,057 Million m<sup>3</sup> whereas the total catchment area capacity of Kerala dams except barrages is around 6610 square kilometres and the total reservoir capacity of all the dams is around 5800 Million m<sup>3</sup>. Before August 15th itself, almost all dam reservoirs were at its maximum capacity. Even in this situation dams were operated in such a way that a portion of the received rain fall was collected in the dam and only the remaining excess water was allowed to discharge through the opened shutters. So in that way

dams in the state actually helped to reduce the impact and damages due to flood. This was clearly mentioned in the report of Central Water Commission.

### Damages in Power Sector

The power sector witnessed unprecedented events during the flood. Heavy floods followed by land slides and cloud bursts resulted in large scale damages. A large number of buildings and structures including electrical installations got submerged in the flood. Severe damages happened to 5 major hydro stations and 7 small hydro stations with a cumulative generation capacity 680 MW in the state. 50 transmission substations were affected and twenty two stations were submerged. 10 major transmission corridors were interrupted. Impact of flood on distribution sector was severe. More than 1000 transformers were submerged in water and around 10000 transformers were switched off to avoid electrical accidents due to flooding. Feeding from around 5700 distribution transformers was interrupted due to conductor snapping or of similar reasons. Functioning



of 283 Electrical Sections from 6 districts was shattered and it was estimated that electricity supply to about 26.6 lakhs of consumers were interrupted during the flood period. Due to violent nature of flood, around 30,000 LT/HT poles, 3500 km conductor, 5 Lakh single and 1 lakh three phase meters also got damaged.

Financial Impact on Power sector on a Preliminary Assessment-A Tabulation

- A. Cost of re-construction – 351.59 Cr.
  - 1. Distribution lines and transformers – 252.55 Cr.
  - 2. Transmission line and Substations – 50.27 Cr.
  - 3. Generating stations. – 48.77 Cr.
- B. Loss of Revenue - 472.10 Cr.

Total loss(A+B) – 823.69 Cr.

Action Plan – Mission Reconnect

‘Mission Reconnect’ was launched as an operation on war footing for rebuilding the assets by coordinating different wings of KSEB Ltd. As well as external agencies and for arranging men & materials as required to form dedicated teams to coordinate the activities at the Corporate, Electrical circle and Section level. Hence

task forces were formed officially on 21.08.2018 at all possible levels.

Special delegation was provided to Officers for the procurement of materials by all means. Available materials from DDUGJY/IPDS stock were also diverted to accomplish this special task. Distribution transformers, Energy meters and Mobile DTR reconditioning units were received from neighbouring states and also from companies engaged in the electricity business. Government of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have offered services of their electricity staff to re-establish the infrastructure. Employees of KSEBL working at unaffected and less affected areas were delegated to heavily affected areas. Top priority was given for the restoration of power supplies in relief camps, hospitals, and water treatment plants. Free mobile charging facilities were arranged at relief camps and other public places. The collaboration of services from retired employees of KSEBL, Licensed electricians, contractors, small scale industries’ representatives, students of engineering colleges & Polytechnic colleges and people’s representatives were incorporated. Co-ordination among various Government departments was also established for the effective implementation.



Major restoration works of distribution networks were completed within a week but major difficulty was to charge the houses which were submerged in water for several days. These houses were inspected by forming squads of experienced personnel. Houses identified with unsafe wiring were given supply through temporary electrical boards consisting of isolator, RCCB, a lamp holder, a three pin socket and an LED indicator. These temporary boards were designed and made by various engineering students in the state.

After 11 days, ie on 1.9.2018, distribution network was restored to normality. 25.57 Lakh connections out of 25.6 lakhs were restored whereas thousands of temporary board connections were effected in premises

having faulty internal wiring. 9/10 EHT Transmission corridors were restored, 48/ 50 affected substations were put back into operation and all the major hydro electric power stations were restored to normal condition. This mission was successfully launched in Kerala just because of the fact that Kerala Power sector is still standing as a single utility under the Government of Kerala which take care of entire generation, transmission and distribution of electricity throughout the state. The co-ordination with state government and other government departments was very much effective under a single utility. Thus finally, the support and helping hand extended by all in and around the state made "Mission Reconnect" a successful Mission.

## People's Energy For A New Kerala Two Days Workshop To Pave The Way For KSEB

K. Jayaprakash

(General Secretary Kseb Workers Association - Citu)



The Trade union with a scientific perspective on social change can stand with employees for their better financial status and protect their rights. Only such trade union can work for the better performance of the industry. The K.S.E.B workers Association has been organising it's struggles and campaigns based on this view. The K.S.E.B Workers Association organising campaigns for new power projects, especially Hydro Electric Power Projects based on this outlook. KSEB introduced the bi-monthly spot billing system by replacing the slab system and provisional invoice card system to make it customer friendly and financially effective by admitting the views put up by our organisation. The KSEB Workers Asso-

ciation has taken a key role in the organisation changes in the KSEB to make it more efficient and customer friendly.

We demanded to dispense with old aged and unscientific centre system in the distribution area (entrusting one Line man to attend the entire work such as disconnection of defaulters, effecting new service connections, break down and maintenance works etc in a particular geographical area) and to introduce the system change. This system change was widely accepted by the consumers and the general public. The new system (the Model Section system) is consisting of 3 wings (teams) namely maintenance, break down and revenue. The employees are jointly responsible for the works related to their respective wings. Introduction of system change made drastic changes in the organisation and society. It enhanced the customers satisfaction and image of KSEB Limited. One of the most important advantage of system change is that the collection efficiency reached to 99 – 100 percentage. We are proud to state that many sections are continuously recording 100 percentage collection efficiency. Proper and timely maintenance work of distribution system resulted remarkable decrease in the supply interruption. Computerisation of billing system and introduction of PDA in spot billing are also the

result of continues and effective efforts of our union. While introducing these system changes our trade union succeeded in protecting the interests of the workmen of the industry.

KSEB Workers Association organised a two day workshop on 2019 March 6,7 at Thiruvananthapuram to analyse the present issues in Generation, Distribution, Transmission and Revenue areas of KSEB and to formulate an action plan to make the organisation more effective, socially responsible and customer friendly. The honourable Chief Minister of Kerala Sri. Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the two day workshop on 2019 March 6. Sri. M.M Mani the Minister of Electricity in his keynote address appreciated the KSEB Workers Association for initiating the programme for making the organisation more effective. The Minister also remarked that KSEB Workers Association is having a leading role in making KSEB Limited as one of the best utilities in the country. The Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of KSEB Limited Sri. N.S. Pillai, Director Dr. V. Sivadasan shared their visions and ideas how to make KSEB more effective and customer friendly. The eminent personalities in the power sector such as Dr. T. Jayaraman (Kerala Planning Board Member) Sri. J. Vijayachandran, Com. K.O Habeeb (President EEFI), Com. Prasanta Nandi Chow-

dhury (General Secretary EEFI), Sri. B. Pradeep (Vice President EEFI), Sri. M.T Varghese presented papers on various subjects. Representing KSEB Workers Association Com.L.R Sreekumar, Com. K.V. Santhoshkumar, Com. S. Harilal, Com. C. Unnikrishnan presented papers on Generation, Transmission, Distribution and Revenue respectively. 6 groups of delegates discussed on various issues and leader of the group consolidated the discussion and presented before the workshop.

The General Secretary of KSEB Workers Association Com. K. Jayaprakash summarised the entire discussion in the workshop. Com. Elamaram Kareem, M.P, General Secretary CITU Kerala and President of KSEB Workers Association addressed the workshop. Sri. P. Kumaran (Director KSEB Limited), Sri. Venugopal (Director KSEB Limited), Sri. R. Suku (Chief Safety Commissioner KSEB Limited) attended the workshop. The workshop concluded on 2019 March 7, 5 Pm. The KSEB Workers Association consider this workshop as a milestone in the History of the entire campaigns, struggles and initiatives organised by the Association. We are confident that the opinions, suggestions and visions evolved from the workshop will definitely help the KSEB Limited in making it a model, effective world class utility.

## H.P.S.E.B. Bijli MazdoorEKTA Union

9 Baba Building, The Mall Shimla-171003

### रिपोर्ट

- 1) हिमाचल प्रदेश विजली मजदूर एकता यूनियन इलैक्ट्रीकल इमपलाई फ़ेडरेशन आफ़ इनडिया की पिछली मिटिंग के बाद जो भी पिछली मिटिंग में जो फैसले लिए गए थे उनके अनुसार कार्या कर रही है।
- 2) विजली बिल 2018 के विरोध में पूरे प्रदेश में घरने प्रदर्शन हिमाचल प्रदेश में किए गए।
- 3) 12 दिसंबर को कांगडा में यूनियन के एक साथी शशी कुमार की करंट लगने से मृत्यु हो गई यूनियन ने धर्मशाला में प्रदेश के मुख्यामंत्रि से मिलकर साथी के परिवार को 8 लाख रुपये दिलवाये।
- 4) विजली मजदूर एकता यूनियन ने 8 9 जनवरी की राष्ट्र व्यापी हड़ताल में जिला सतर पर पूरे प्रदेश में भाग लिया।
- 5) 25 दिसंबर को सीटू के सहयोग से हिमाचल प्रदेश में आउटसोर्स र्गमचारी यूनियन का गठन किया गया।
- 6) भविष्य में इलैक्ट्रीकल इमपलाई फ़ेडरेशन आफ़ इनडिया का जो भी निर्देश होगा उसे विजली मजदूर एकता यूनियन तन मन धन से निमाएगी।

इनकमाव जिंदावाद

यशपाल

राज्य महासचिव विजली मजदूर  
एकता यूनियन हिमाचल प्रदेश

## All Haryana Power Corporations Worker Union

भुवनेश्वर मिटिंग(५ व ६ अक्टुबर २०१८) के बाद की गतिविधियों की रिपोर्ट

EEFI मिटिंग ७/८ फरवरी २०१९ BTR भवन दिल्ली

दिल्ली

७।२।२०१९

हरियाणा में प्रदेश सरकार के बिरोध में तेज कर्मचारी आन्दोलन पहले से ही चल रहा है। हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन के कर्मचारियों की ६ यूनियन की संयुक्त हड़ताल १६ अक्टुबर मे शुरु हुई जो आगे बढ़ती चलो गश्दै। अन्य कर्मचारी संगठनों व जनता का समर्थन मिलने लगा बिजली कर्मचारियों की दुसरी यूनियन इस हड़ताल के समर्थन में २२ अक्टुबर से अनिश्चित कालिन हड़ताल पर चली गयी। हमारी युनियन के साथ संयुक्त आन्दोलन से मनाकर दिया। हमारी यूनियन सर्वकर्मचारी संघ के साथ २६ अक्टुबर की मास केजुअल लीव पर व ३० व ३१ अक्टुबर की दो दिन की हड़ताल पर गई। इससे पहले २२ अक्टुबर को सुबह ९ से ११ बजे (दोघन्टे के लिये) कार्य बहिष्कार करके प्रदर्शन किये गये। इसके बाद २ नवम्बर को न्यायालय के हस्तक्षेप से हड़ताल (परिवहन कर्मचारियों की) वापिस हो गयी। सरकार से परिवहन कर्मचारियों की मांगों पर कोई समझौता नही हो पाया। बिजली कर्मचारियों की दुसरी यूनियन ने १ नवम्बर को ही हड़ताल वापिस ले ली थी। ईस प्रकार परिवहन के कर्मचारियों की १८ दिन व बिजली कर्मचारियों की दुसरी यूनियन द्वारा की गई १० दिन की हड़ताल कर्मचारियों में निराशा का वातावरण पैदा कर दिया।

इन परिस्थियों में ८ व ९ जनवरी की राष्ट्रव्यापी हड़ताल करने की चुनौती थी जिसको लेकर हमारी यूनियन ने पुरे प्रदेश में युनिट स्तर पर कनवेंशन की जिससे हमारी यूनियन के कर्मचारियों का हौसला बढ़ा। १९ दिसम्बर को राज्य कार्यकारिणी की मिटिंग की गई जिसके निणर्णों के अनुसार २० दिसम्बर को सर्व कर्मचारी संघ हरियाणा के प्रदर्शनों में भाग लिया गया। २१ दिसम्बर से ३१ दिसम्बर तक युनिट कार्यकारिणी की मिटिंग की गई। १ जनवरी से ६ जनवरी तक सब युनिटों पर हड़ताल की तैयारी के लिये जोर मिटिंग की गई। तब ८ व ९ जनवरी की हड़ताल में भाग लिया गया। रेगुलार बिजली कर्मचारियों ने हड़ताल में जोरदार तरिके से भाग लिया। वितरण कर्मचारियों में हड़ताल अच्छी रही परन्तु ट्रान्समिशन व उत्पादन कम्पानियों में हड़ताल जमजोर रही। दुसरी यूनियन द्वारा कच्चे कर्मचारियों को हड़ताल से बाहार कर देने व अनिश्चितकालिन हड़ताल के कारण कच्चे कर्मचारी हड़ताल पर नहीं गये, हमारी यूनियन से सम्बन्धित कुछ कच्चे कर्मचारी ही हड़ताल पर गये।

हरियाणा की भाजपा सरकार परिवहन कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल का दमन करके परिवहन कर्मचारियों की यूनियनों को हताश करने में सफल रही। जैसा सभी युनियनो के साथ करना चाहती है। विशेष कर दुसरी बड़ी लड़ाका ताकत बिजली में भी सरकार ऐसा ही करना चाहती है। इसी उद्देश्य से सरकार ने हड़ताल में भाग लेने वाले कर्मचारियों की प्रमोशन रोक दी है। मौखिक व लिखित आदेशों के द्वारा हड़ताल में भाग लेने बिजली कर्मचारियों की पदोन्नती व वेतन बृद्धि रोक दी गई है। सभी कर्मचारियों के लिये वायोमैट्रिक प्रणाली से उपस्थिती लगाये जाने का दबाव बनाया जा रहा है। जोकि बिजली में तकनीकी स्टाफ के लिये सम्भव ही नहीं है। इन सभी कर्मचारी यूनियन विरोधी कदमों के विरोधी में यूनियन ने प्रबन्धन को विरोध पत्र लिखे व २५ जनवरी को पुरे प्रदेश में सब युनिट स्तर पर विरोध प्रदर्शन करके A. C. S को ज्ञापन भेजे गये। दिनांक १६ फरवरी २०१९ को राज्य कार्यकारिणी की मिटिंग बुलाकर आगे आन्दोलन की रूपरेखा बनाई जायेगी।

नरेश कुमार

महासचिव

**मोदी हटाओ, देश बाँचाओ**

## UN Climate Talks End in Agreement at COP24 in Katowice

Over 200 countries have finally come to an agreement with regards to a set of rules to govern the 2015 Paris climate accord.



After two weeks of tense negotiations at the COP24 Summit in Katowice, Poland there is finally an agreement with regards to a set of rules that will help curb the threat of global warming.

The 2015 Paris climate accord's goal is to keep the increase in global average temperature to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to limit the increase to 1.5°C, in order to reduce the risks and effects of climate change.

Furthermore, each participant of the accord - also known as the Paris Agreement, must determine, plan, and regularly report on the contribution that it takes to alleviate global warming.

Interestingly enough, U.S. President Donald Trump announced his Intentions to withdraw the U.S. from the accord, even though they are responsible for doing

more to cause climate change than any other country, according to a report from CNN.

Unfortunately for Trump, according to the Paris Agreement, they cannot withdraw until Nov.4, 2020 at the earliest.

At the event in Katowice, the objective was to reduce the possibility of global warming, that scientists say are caused by emissions of gases

such as carbon dioxide. According to a study in the U.S. News and World Report, these emissions need to drop sharply by 2030 to prevent a potentially catastrophic disaster.

Key outcomes from the accord include the funding for smaller developing countries, to help them cope with the costs of "greening" their economies and cope with future climate changes.

Additionally, the rules also enjoin rich nations to boost support over the next two years, and provide hard data on where future financial flows will come from, according to a report from the Straits Times.

There is a long way to go until the possibility of a full agreement with all participants, but today's outcome has provided a platform from which to grow.


**TRADE UNION INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY & ENERGY**

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Montreuil, February 22th, 2019

Dear comrades,

There is still time to prevent another war, this time against the Venezuelan people!

On 5-6 December 2018, FNIC CGT organized an international conference for peace in France, in which 28 countries and 167 representatives participated.

One of the common denominators of analysis and intervention has been the existence of imperialism and the hegemony of the United States over the rest of the world. The US, without complex, select countries to invade, invent wars, build opposition leaders to the powers in place in the targeted countries, and today strangle the Venezuelan economy by lowering the price of oil, suspending the lines of credit. They are preparing a military invasion by delegation.

This interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign states has only one purpose: to take control of the natural wealth of these states and strengthen the economic positions of American multinationals. And when governments, peoples do not bow to this will, when they do not accept to be subordinated to imperialist designs, then it is the weapons that speak.

Recent history is accompanied by a great deal of suffering and loss of life, the destruction of industries, factories, slowdowns in development, causes strong waves of emigrants, displaced persons, destroys families, for example in Iraq, the former Yugoslavia, Libya, Grenada or Panama. The next targets are Cuba, Nicaragua and today the military intervention in Venezuela is imminent.

As for this country, the reasons that stimulate the American appetite are numerous. But we can for example quote:

- Natural Resources: Venezuela has the largest gold and oil reserves in the world. But Venezuelan subsoil is also rich in diamonds, iron, copper, aluminum, bauxite, coltan, gas and fresh-water resources are very important.
- Presence in the region of two other great powers: China and Russia, which invest significantly
- Willingness to deploy the Mercosur economic integration project
- The will to weaken the Bolivarian alliance for peoples and the Alba-TCP peoples trade treaty which is an alternative to the free trade agreement promoted by the American FTAA.
- Avoid the de-dollarization of world trade that weakens the United States. Venezuela sells oil, in yuan, rubles, euros and rupees.

We can't let American imperialism intervene once again in the internal affairs of a sovereign state and establish a totalitarian regime. We can't let the multinationals flout the will of the people and seize the wealth of a country to the detriment of people's well-being.

The TUI Chemistry Energy therefore calls on all the organizations in its professional fields to organize actions in their respective countries in order to express their rejection of the war that the United States imposes on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and their support for the Venezuelan people.

Together we fight for the sovereignty, political and economic self-determination of every country to be respected.

The world needs peace and to achieve this, it is the international unity of the workers that must be built.

# Draft UN Declaration on the Human Right to Peace

SSIHRL, 20 September 2017

FNIC, (CGT) invited EEFI to take part in the Peace Conference at Paris on 5-6 December last. EEFI took part in the conference as well executive committee meeting of TUI(Chemistry & Energy).

Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law also took part in the Peace Conference and moved a Draft Declaration they initiated in UN General Assembly. They solicit ratification of the Draft by various National Bodies.

EEFI publish the Draft for study of its constituents. If all of us agree, We may ratify it and send to the appropriate forum for further course of action.



*In special consultative status with the United Nations*

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations Charter and by the commitment of all Member States to promote peace, human rights and development, Recognizing that the legal bases of the human right to peace are formulated in the Charter of the United Nations, Security Council, General Assembly, ECOSOC and Human Rights Council resolutions, the Constitutions of specialized agencies (UNESCO, ILO, FAO and WHO), as well as in international treaties including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recognizing also that the right to peace is part of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981) and its Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003); the Ibero-American Convention on Young People's Rights (2005); and the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights (2012),

Acknowledging that the legal bases of the human right to peace are further strengthened by other universal documents and instruments, including the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Right to Development, the UN Millennium Declaration (2000), the World Summit Outcome Document (2005) and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (2015),

Taking note that the constitutive components of the human right to peace are already contained in the Human Rights Covenants and are justiciable under the Optional Protocols Procedures of the ICCPR and

the ICESCR, among others the rights to life, liberty, integrity and security of the person, the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and association, the right to an adequate standard of life including food, drinking water, sanitation, clothing and housing and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and rights to health, education, social security and culture,

Endorsing the General Assembly Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace (1978), the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace (1984), the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (1999) and the observance of 21 September of each year as the International Day of Peace ,

Calling for the proactive implementation of General Assembly resolution 2625 which contains the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the UN Charter (1970),

Emphasizing the obligation of all Member States to negotiate and settle all disputes through peaceful means (UN Charter Art. 2(3)) and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State (Art. 2(4)),

Recalling the commitment to nuclear disarmament contained in Article 6 of the Non Proliferation Treaty; recalling also the Arms Trade Treaty (2013) and endorsing the work of the Conference on Disarmament in the spirit of promoting development through disarmament and reallocation of resources,

Welcoming the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by the UN Conference on 7 July 2017, which bans States from developing, testing, producing, and possessing nuclear weapons, and from using and threatening to use such weapons,

Considering that every military or security institution must be fully subordinated to the rule of law,

Concerned by the impunity of mercenaries and private military and security companies, as well as the outsourcing to the private sector of inherently security State functions,

Conscious that mass exoduses and migratory flows respond to dangers, threats and breaches of peace, and that the international community should establish an international migration regime as a matter of urgency,

Condemning propaganda of war and incitement to hate and violence, as stipulated in article 20(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Taking note with appreciation of the Human Rights Council's Advisory Committee Declaration on the Right to Peace, adopted on 16 April 2012,

Paying tribute to peace movements and ideas that have marked over the history of humankind and have crystallized inter alia in the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the Twenty-first Century (1999),

Welcoming the important contribution that civil society organizations have made to the development of the human right to peace, in particular the Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace (2010),

Aware that peace is not only the absence of war, but that it means the absence of economic, social and cultural violence and requires a positive, dynamic, participatory process where root causes of conflicts are addressed in a timely fashion and conflict-preventive measures are developed and applied uniformly and without discrimination,

Recalling that the recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family, women, men, children, disabled and elderly persons, are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Acknowledging the contribution of women to peace process and the importance of their participation at all levels of decision-making, as recognized by the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security,

Affirming that the human right to peace cannot be achieved without the realization of the equality of rights and respect for gender-based differences; without respect for different cultural values and religious beliefs that are compatible with the universally recognized human rights; and without the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of related intolerance,

Recognizing also that peace requires social justice, as spelled out by ILO Constitution and relevant international labor conventions, which provide for the right to a decent work and to enjoy fair conditions of employment and trade union association,

Reaffirming that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Human Rights Covenants can be fully realized, and that the rule of law demands the uniform application of norms and rejects selectivity, privilege, impunity and discrimination,

Recalling further the commitment of the international community to eradicate poverty and to promote sustainable development and a clean and peaceful environment for all and the need to address the growing inequalities and exclusion among States and within them,

Affirming the right of all victims of human rights violations to truth, justice, reparation and to guarantees of non-recurrence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/147 of 16 December 2005,

Recognizing that the asymmetries of trade, new forms of economic colonialism and exploitation, sanctions regimes and other forms of structural violence impede the enjoyment of the human right to peace and other human rights,

Recalling that a culture of peace and the education of humanity for peace, justice and liberty are indispensable to the dignity of human beings and constitute a duty that all nations must fulfill in international solidarity,

Acknowledging that peace and human rights have a symbiotic relationship, that peace is a condition to the enjoyment of other human rights and that when human rights are fulfilled the outcome is peace,

Inviting international and regional human rights protection bodies to further develop the human right to peace,

Inviting all stakeholders to embrace the philosophy of peace for development and the sacred commitment to preserve future generations from the scourge of war and continued oppression by endemic economic and structural violence,

Proclaims the following Universal Declaration of the Human Right to Peace:

### Article 1. Right-holders

1. Individuals, groups, peoples, minorities and humankind have the human right to peace. It is prerequisite to the enjoyment of all universally recognized human rights, including the rights to development and environment.
2. The human right to peace is inalienable, universal, indivisible, inter-dependent and interrelated.
3. The human right to peace shall be implemented without any distinction or discrimination.

### Article 2. Elements

1. The constitutive elements of the human right to peace are already stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations and relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
2. Individuals can assert the various elements of the human right to peace by submitting complaints to the UN human rights treaty bodies, the regional human rights courts and the Human Rights Council's relevant special procedures.
3. All individuals, peoples and minority groups subjected to aggression, genocide, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related forms of intolerance, as well as apartheid, colonialism, neo-colonialism and other international crimes, deserve special attention as victims of violations of the human right to peace.

### Article 3. Duty-bearers

1. States are the principal duty-bearers of the human right to peace.
2. States shall address root causes of conflicts and develop preventive strategies to ensure that grievances are addressed in a timely fashion and do not lead to violence.
3. States have an obligation to negotiate in good faith and settle disputes by non-violent means.
4. States shall abide by the legal obligation to refrain from the use or the threat of use of force in international relations.
5. States shall refrain from the imposition of unilateral sanctions, and shall suppress propaganda for war.

6. States shall facilitate the contribution of women to the prevention, management and peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as to the maintenance of peace after conflicts.
7. States shall strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations' three foundation pillars in the fields of international peace and security, human rights and development.
8. States shall respect the right of peoples to self-determination.
9. The Security Council should be reformed to ensure compliance with its obligations under the UN Charter in the field of collective security.

### Article 4. Right to disarmament

1. All States have an obligation to gradually disarm and to eliminate stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction or of indiscriminate effect, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.
2. The use of weapons that damage the environment, in particular radioactive weapons and weapons of mass destruction, is contrary to international humanitarian law, the right to a healthy environment and the right to peace. States that have utilized them have the obligation to restore the environment by repairing all damage caused.
3. States shall establish peace zones and of mass destruction weapons-free zones.
4. Resources released through disarmament shall be devoted to the promotion and fulfillment of human rights treaty obligations, as well as the realization of the rights to development and environment.

### Article 5. Right to education on peace and human rights

1. All peoples and individuals have a right to a comprehensive peace and human rights education within the framework of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and Dialogue among Cultures.
2. Education and socialization for peace is a condition sine qua non for unlearning war and building identities disentangled from violence.
3. Everyone has the right to denounce any event that threatens or violates the right to peace, and to participate freely in peaceful activities for the defense of the right to peace.
4. States undertake to revise national laws and policies that are discriminatory against women, and adopt legislation to address domestic violence, trafficking of women and girls and gender-based violence.

## Article 6. Right to human security

1. Individuals have the right to human security, including freedom from fear and freedom from want.
2. All peoples and individuals have the right to life in a private and public environment that is safe and healthy.
3. Freedom from want implies the enjoyment of the right to sustainable development and of economic, social and cultural rights.

## Article 7. Right to resist and oppose oppression

1. Individuals have the right to conscientious objection to military service.
2. Members of any military or security institution have the right to disobey orders that are contrary to the UN Charter, the international human rights law and the international humanitarian law. The disobedience of such orders shall in no case constitute military offences.
3. States shall refrain from outsourcing inherently State military and security functions to private contractors.
4. Private military and security companies and their personnel should be held accountable for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
5. All peoples and individuals have the right to resist and oppose colonialism, foreign occupation and domestic oppression; aggression, genocide, racism, apartheid, war crimes and crimes against humanity.
6. UN peacekeepers shall be accountable in cases of criminal misconduct or the violation of international law. Troop-contributing States shall investigate complaints against members of their national contingents.
7. Victims of human rights violations have the right to know the truth, to obtain redress, justice, reparation and to guarantees of non-recurrence.
8. All individuals have the right to seek and to enjoy refugee status without discrimination, in accordance with international law.
9. States have an obligation to respect, protect and fulfill

the human rights of all individuals and vulnerable groups under their jurisdiction, regardless of their nationality or origin and regardless of their immigration status.

## Article 8. Rights to development and environment

1. All individuals and peoples have the right to participate in economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms may be fully exercised, as well as to contribute to, and enjoy that development.
2. Everyone has the right to a safe, clean and peaceful environment, to sustainable development and to international action to mitigate environment destruction, especially climate change.
3. States shall transfer technology in the field of climate change, following the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.
4. In accordance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, States shall provide appropriate financing to States with inadequate resources for adaptation to climate change.

## Article 9. Implementation

1. States, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes, shall take appropriate sustainable measures to implement this Declaration. International, regional, national and local organizations and civil society should actively participate in the implementation of this Declaration.
2. All States must implement in good faith the provisions of this Declaration by adopting relevant legislative, judicial, administrative, educational or other measures necessary to promote its effective realization.
3. The Human Rights Council shall monitor progress in the implementation of this Declaration as a permanent item in its agenda and appointing a Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Peace.
4. UN human rights treaty bodies and relevant regional bodies are invited to incorporate this Declaration in their protection activities.

**SSIHRL**

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## 3rd TUI (Chemistry & Energy) Congress calls to Develop Exploitation Free Society.

-Kanchan Mukherhee

"We believe future is for workers in past, present and future, we believe in society having no outsider from imperialists, no attack on democracy, no attack on freedom, unity of working class, Long live WFTU". With this clarion call from George Mavrikos, General Secretary, World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), the 3rd Congress of Trade Unions International (TUI) of Energy & Petrochemical workers commenced at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 11th & 12th September, 2018. 160 delegates from India and other 30 countries attended the congress. Though 115 delegates from more than 40 countries registered to attend. Indian government refused to grant visa to many countries including Venezuela, Algeria, Pakistan, Iraq, El Salvador, Djibouti and some more others. Ultimately, 60 delegates from 30 countries attended the congress. 96 delegates from India representing CITU attended the congress. Delegates from France, Greece, Albania, Egypt, Peru, Cuba, Mackinaw, Trinidad & Tobago, Sudan, Palestine, Jordan, Ghana, Cambodia, Mauritius, Iran, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Morocco, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India took part in this glorious congress. AITUC, AIUTUC and sectoral Federations of Electricity, Oil & Natural Gas, Coal and Pharmaceuticals attended the congress.

3rd congress of TUI (Chemistry & Energy) commenced with great zeal and incitement, sharp at 10:00 a.m. with the glorious presence of George Mavrikos, General Secretary of WFTU, Dr. K. Hemlata, President of CITU and member of Presidential Council of WFTU, Swadesh Dev Roye, Deputy General Secretary of WFTU and International co-ordinator of TUIs, H. Mahadevan, Deputy General Secretary of WFTU and In-charge of Asia Pacific Region, Ch. Venkatachalam, Chairman, Finance Control Commission, WFTU, Elamaram Kareem, MP, General Secretary of CITU, Kerala State Committee and Chairman, Reception committee, Prasanta N Chowdhury, General Secretary, Electricity Employees Federation of India (EEFI) and Vice Presidednt, TUI (Chemistry & Energy) shared the dais.

Swadesh Dev Roye played an inspiring role to conduct

the schedule of the congress and kept the congress always invigorated. Elamaram Kareem, MP and Chairman of Reception Committee, while presenting welcome address, stated the state of Kerala which is one of the bastions of the historic proletarian and Left Movements in the country is proud to host all the delegates.

Dr. K. Hemlata, while congratulating the congress, detailed on the world wide attacks on the working class and the toiling masses as a whole by the ruling class following neo liberal economy. She stated that there is no respite for workers despite growth is in full swing. She added inequalities increased further. . That is the only way to defeat neo liberalism and ultimately end capitalist exploitation. A globally strong WFTU is the need of the day.

Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury, General Secretary, EEFI and Vice President TUI (Energy) placed the main document of the congress 'PLATFORM OF ACTION' through power point presentation. He emphasised on crisis in the energy world, while capitalist imperialist duo are hatching game plan to curb right to energy of human race. Day by day job opportunity in the energy sector is being shrunked, with the advent of new and newer technology. Energy workers are to scale the geographical barrier to ensure universal access to energy for all of civilised mankind.

Mr. Sandip Pai, a Research Scholar and Journalist, placed Global Energy Situation through power point presentation. He detailed on the use of energy in the society derived from biomass to fossil fuel like coal, oil and natural gas and now to renewable energy sources. Today 60% of total global oil produced is used for transportation. However, increasing investments in vehicles run by electricity and storage technology are threatening the long term existence of oil.

George Mavrikos, General Secretary, W.F.T.U., at the very outset of his speech, saluted the congress. He expressed his worm thanks to the organisation in India CITU and its office bearers. He expressed solidarity and support with the workers and people of Kerala who have

been seriously affected by disastrous floods. He stated that WFTU works through 10 sectorial organisations. The role of such sectorial organisations is very important. Through TUIs, WFTU can come directly in contact with the workers at workplace. Through TUIs, we can instil the class oriented the militant line in the consciences of the factory and industrial proletariat. He stated our aim is the TUIs to be the heart of WFTU. It needs effort to achieve it.

He emphasized upon organising working women, young man. He stated International Congress of working women was organised at Panama last year by WFTU. WFTU has also organised International Congress of klyouth. He stated WFTU should organise schools for workers. He added we should look into all sectors, specially crucial condition in work place so that none can feel isolated. We have to work for Palestine, Markin barricade in Cuba, aggression in Syria, Lybia. This is internationalism. Thus we can show our international solidarity. George Mavrikos further stated WFTU should work for exploitation free society, classless society. This is our characterisation. We are going to organise international symposium at Panama against announcement – Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel. We are going to organise international congress of ports. We would organise symposium of PAN AFRICAN countries in Cairo. He concluded with the slogan – Long live working class unity, Long live WFTU. Mr. Mavrikos on behalf of WFTU donated \$5,000 for Kerala flood affected people. He stated WFTU does not collect funds from the Multi National Corporations (MNC), Bourgeoisie or from exploiters.

Tapan Sen, General Secretary of CITU, while congratulating the congress on behalf of CITU, stated that Mr. Mavrikos stated this morning internationalism is in very crucial stage. Workers have to exercise the sense of internationalism and to translate it in exploitation free society. He stated that we had apprehension facing such disaster of flood in 100 years, whether we would be successful. I am pleased to announce that we have extended full efforts to make the congress successful. MIC, Kerala has stated that in India 4 crores of family have no access to electricity though 50% capacity is unused. Corporate having huge loans to banks and others cannot use full capacity. Profit is the only motto. So tools of natural resources are taking place abundantly at the consent of the government. He further stated, enemy is the imperialists, enemy is neo liberalism. Our

agenda is class oriented Trade Union and the same is also of WFTU. CITU has federations in Electricity, Coal, Petroleum & Gas. He expected TUI (Energy & Petrochemicals) will play a vital role as they are in main strategic sectors to build exploitation free society. He concluded with the words – We shall overcome.

Important contributions also was a part of the congress documents, Mr. Sandip Pai, Energy Research Scholar and Journalist, K. Hemlata, President, CITU, H. Madevan, Dy. General Secretary, WFTU & In Charge, WFTU Asia Pacific Region, Swadesh Dev Roy, Dy. General Secretary, WFTU & International General Co-ordinator of TUIs, Prasanta N Chowdhury, Vice President, TUI (Energy & Petrochemicals) and General Secretary, Electricity Employees Federation of India, D. D. Ramanandan, General Secretary, All India Coal Workers' Federation, Nogen Ch. Chutia, General Secretary, Petroleum & Gas Workers' Federation of India.

The topics dealt within the papers are Energy Transition and the future of energy workers, Working class on path of worldwide struggle, International Unity and struggles of the working class against imperialist onslaught in Energy Sector, Energy World and energy workers, Coal Industries – Challenges and struggles, crisis in upstream Petroleum Industries vis-à-vis Global economy.

39 delegates participated in the deliberations. They all enriched the main documents detailing their experiences on movements and struggles in their own countries against the onslaught of the ruling class followed by neo liberal economy, under the pressure of imperialists.

M. M. Mani, Power Minister of L.F. Government of Kerala, address at the congress. The General Secretary, WFTU and the General Secretary of FNIC, France extended some monetary assistance to MIC, Power for Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF).

Congress adopted resolutions on issues of movements and struggle of the working class across the world such as solidarity with the struggle of workers of 'TOTAL' in Gabon and with 'ONEP'. The resolutions and amendments to the constitution of the TUI (Chemistry & Energy) and main documents of the congress placed by Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury were adopted by the congress unanimously. New Executive Committee was elected by the congress unanimously. Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury (India) and Eric Sellini (France) were elected as President and General Secretary respectively. Elected Executive Members are as follows :-

Sl No.	Name	Country	Organisation	Portfolio
1.	Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury	India	EEFI/CITU	President
2.	Eric Sellini	France	FNIC/CGT	General Secretary
3.	Taf Koleci	Albania	FSPISH	Executive Committee Member
4.	Cardoso Almeida Norton	Brazil	CTB	Executive Committee Member
5.	Jose Cabrera	Cuba	CTC	Executive Committee Member
6.	Emad Hamdy Aly Hemdan	Egypt	AFPMCFW	Executive Committee Member
7.	Christidis Stavros	Greece	PAME	Executive Committee Member
8.	Mohan Sharma	India	AIFEE/AITUC	Executive Committee Member
9.	Boushabi Sanna (Female)	Morocco	OASMMECA	Executive Committee Member
10.	To be included	South Africa	CEPPAWAWU	Executive Committee Member
11.	Touahria Hamou	Algeria	OASMMECA	Executive Committee Member

The newly elected General Secretary, Eric Sellini placed his concluding address which was adopted unanimously. Sellini analysed the destructive character of capitalism and to ensure development in equality, universal access to basic needs should be the objectives of development. Fight for peace, increase of purchasing power, secure employment, better working and living condition are closely linked to a politics of peace, disarmament and development towards a new international economic order. It is necessary to put under people's control of the strategic sectors like Energy (Electricity, Gas, Oil and water), Health, Food, Education, Housing, Transport, public services, socialisation of production and means of production and its distribution. To achieve these rights, alternative political system is essential. Sellini continued to state that TUI (Chemistry & Energy) has to fight for Right to Trade Union and Right to Collective Bargaining. Right to strike and guaranteed decent compensation package to achieve modern standard of living including universal social security, safety and hygiene in working life. Decent guaranteed employment, stoppage of all sorts of onslaught on job, no discrimination related to sex, gender identity, marital status, social origin, national origin, ethnic and cultural origin, religious benefits, political or ideological benefits etc.

Eric Sellini requested the congress to adopt tasks to build movements in all the countries for unionisation of the mass of workers and strengthening of the unions of the TUI (Chemistry & Energy) and in turn, the WFTU has to be the first activity. It will build itself on the strength of solidarity between labour unions, by organising conferences, bilateral meetings, mobilisations by strikes and demonstrations. TUI (Chemistry & Energy) reiterate their determination for organising a world day of strikes and demonstrations on the common demands of the

concerned workers.

With the concluding speech addressed by Swadesh Dev Roye, Dy. General Secretary, WFTU and International Co-ordinator of TUIs that the object of WFTU, the TUIs :- we have to unite, we have to fight for exploitation free society through class struggle that was reiterated with firm determination.

Despite the devastating flood in Kerala holding the congress was a big challenge to the organising committee mainly composed of the representatives of Kerala SEB Workers' Association and Kerala SEB Officers' Association guided by Kerala State Committee of CITU. They successfully overcome the challenges.

However, colourful decoration of the venue and surroundings of the congress, hospitality, maintenance of the time schedule and overall arrangements were highly acknowledged and praised by the General Secretary, WFTU and all the delegates of international and national. All of them have remarked that it was a historic event. Similarly, local leaders and volunteers who have rendered yeomen's service have been encouraged to be the witness of a historic congress in presence of General Secretary, WFTU and huge international delegates from more than 30 countries, the enthusiastic deliberations by the leaders and delegates, ideological and political issues focussed by the concluding resolution adopted in the congress. K. Jayaparakash, General Secretary, General Convenor of the Reception Committee, presented vote of thanks to the delegates. With the inspiring International Song, the leaders and the delegates stood with repeated slogans of "Workers of the World Unite" and the historic congress of TUI (Chemistry & Energy) came to an end. In the evening of 12th September, 2018, a public meeting was attended by around 800 workers

# Work Report UT Powermen Union Chandigarh

After 8th Conference of EEFI, the U.T. Powermen Union Chandigarh observe numbers of agitational programme in support of common demands of U.T. & MC Employees, All India agitation on the call of EEFI, CITU & Central Trade Unions as well as its own level for the implantation of local demands. The main agitational programme for last six month are as below.

05th September, 2018 Delhi Rally:- The Electricity Employees of Chandigarh alongwith Federation of U.T. Employees & workers Chandigarh & CITU participated in Majdoor-Kishan Rally held at Delhi on 05th September, 2018. In preparation of rally union held gate meetings, group meetings and distribute leaf lets printed by EEFI & CITU in the month of July & August, 2018.

11-12th September, 2018:- One delegate of the Union participated in the 2nd conference of Trade Union International (energy & petrochemical) in Thiruvanthapuram (Kerala) on 11-12 September, 2017.

4th-5th October, 2018:- Trade Union workshop and working committee meeting EEFI attended by the Union General Secretary on 4 & 5th October, 2018 at Bhuwne-shwar (Odisha).

17th December, 2018:- The Union massively participated in the convention held under the banner of Federation of U.T. Employees & Workers Chandigarh on 17th December, 2018 in preparation of 2 days nationwide strike on 8-9th January, 2019. The convention was also addressed by Com. Subhash Lamba Chairman AISGEF & Vice President EEFI and other leaders of SKS Haryana and PSSF (Punjab).

20th December, 2018:- Union also participated in the massive rally and demonstration held under the banner of Federation of U.T. Employees & workers Chandigarh on 20.12.2018 and submit 2 days strike notice to the Advisor to the Administrator U.T. Chandigarh through Depu-

ty Commissioner U.T. Chandigarh alongwith 1 ½ dozen Unions affiliates to Federation.

8-9th January, 2019:- The Electricity Employees of Chandigarh on the call of U.T. Powermen Union Chandigarh observe complete strike on 8th & 9th January 2019, on the call of Central Trade Unions including EEFI/NC-COEEEE. Union in the month of November and December 2018 campaign to success the strike, thousand of leaf lets have been distributed, gate meetings and rallies were held before all the offices to mobilise employees, a joint team of Federation Campaign for the success of strike as the strike notice was jointly submitted by the 1 ½ Dozen unions of U.T. Chandigarh.

On 8th January all the strike employees held joint rally and took out procession in Sector 17, Chandigarh in which Electricity employees along with other affiliates of Federation participated through procession. The striking Electricity Employees also participated in the rally and Procession the call for which given by the federation of U.T. employees and workers Chandigarh on 9th January, 2019 also. The Chandigarh Administration announce no work-no pay beside other action and deput-ed Police Force and Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers of the department and Junior Engineers of Electrical Circle (PWD) and some contractors workers in Electricity complaint centres and 66 KV/33 KV Sub Stations but they remain fail to maintain the power supply/ breakdown and power supply was become normal on 10th January, 2019.

Affiliation and other dues-Union has already remmited all the dues that is P. Ram Murti Bhawan amounting Rs.20,000/- affiliation fee upto 2018. TUI (energy conference fund Rs.10,000/- besides the dues of Voice of Electricity Workers. Apart from above Rs.20,000/- deposited in kerela distress relief fund through RTGS beside mass collection along with CITU.

**VOTE TO ENSURE  
JOBS, FOOD, HEALTH, SHELTER, EDUCATION & ENERGY FOR ALL**

# KSEB Workers Association Organised Massive demonstration of Electricity Employees and Engineers on December 11 for success of Two days' strike and women wall

In Kerala, the two days historic strike was total. 1 crore and 40 lakh workers participated in the strike in Kerala. Despite the large scale disturbances sought to be created by the BJP against the entry of women of all ages to the temple in Sabarimala, joint campaign was extensively conducted all over Kerala with an effort to reach every nook and corner of the State. The struck workers and members of the mass organizations picketed trains at 32 points. Train traffic was disrupted and several trains had to be cancelled. Trivandrum, Cochin and Kozhikode airport ground handling staff were on strike causing disruption of flights. Because of the campaign, people extended support to the strike. Thousands of workers have gathered at the 483 strike centres which have been opened across the state. These centres were active for the entire 48 hours duration of strike throughout day and night.

The strike was total in electricity sector also. All offices were closed. No field staff was present. About 95% Employees and Engineers struck work. Though the Engineers Association and BMS did not participate in the strike, the force and spirit of strike had no effect.

Two month long campaign were held in the Electricity Sector.

## District Level March on 2018 December 11th

Employees and Engineers of Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd., have joined hands in large number and marched towards central Govt. Offices in all districts of Kerala to mark their protest against the proposed Electricity Act Amendment bill 2018 under the banner of NCCOEEE.

In the State Capital Trivandrum, the protest march was inaugurated by Com. K.O. Habeeb President EEFI. Com. Jayaprakash. K, General Secretary of KSEB WA (CITU) has addressed the march along with other trade union leader of KSEB Ltd. Though the rally was forced to post-

pone at 13th December in Trivandrum due a district wise hartal called by BJP, it has not effected the enthusiasm of the Electricity Employees. Around 2000 employees participated in the march at Trivandrum District itself. The march gained the attention of General Public as it turned up with flags, Placards and thunderous Slogans, narrating the ill effect of the draconian Act.

The experience was nothing less in all the other thirteen districts too. Trade union leaders from AITUC, INTUC had addressed the march held in all districts. Around ten thousand members of our association have took part in the march in all districts out of the total 16500 members.

As usual our association took initiative to organize the December 11 march and made it a grand success. As part of this a state level meeting of NCCOEEE constituents was held on 27.11.2018 at BTR memorial which was presided by Com. K.O. Habeeb. Almost all the union of workmen as well as officers have attended the meeting except BMS.

Ahead of that our association has completed all the divisions level general body meeting of our own and the section level meeting also. A three tyre joint meeting viz district, division and section also held as per the decision taken in the NCCOEEE State Level Meeting.

## Campaign Works

25000 palmlets narrating the defect of Electricity amendment bill has been circulated among the employees. Another 20000 notices containing the September 28 Delhi declaration also circulated among the employees. At least one board/banners has been exhibited in all officers to convey the demands of the two day strike. Boards were also exhibited in all important towns in the state. Graffiti were also made in various towns.

## NCCOEEE State Level Convention

A state level convention of NCCOEEE with not less than

1000 Electricity Employees was held at Eranakulam on 05.12.18. Vast publicity was given for this by circulating 25000 copies of notice.

Another notable campaign made by the union was the circulation of 2 lakh notices among the public to communicate the ill effect of the proposed amendment act. This was done by our union workers various squads having members 10 to 150 by visiting bus stand and railway station and delivering short speeches to the passengers by entering in to buses and trains.

#### Public Gathering

We conducted public gathering in 71 Division areas inviting people across all fields of life, including class and mass organizations.

#### Strike Notice

On December 20th Strike notice was submitted to board authorities and conducted procession in front of Vyduthibhavanam Thiruvananthapuram and all Electricity Offices across the State.

#### Proclamation Procession

As the proclamation of two day strike, all units of KSEB-WA have made demonstration on January 4, 5, 7 in the nearest street. Thousands of employees and Engineers participated.

#### Women wall

ON new year's day, January 1, Kerala witnessed a his-

toric and unique event. Over 5.5 million (55 lakh) women came together to make a Vanitha Mathil (Women's Wall) which covered 620 kilometers from the northern tip in Kasargode to the southern tip at Thiruvananthapuram.

The women who assembled in this massive wall took a pledge to uphold renaissance values, gender equality and to not allow Kerala to become a lunatic asylum. Women from all walks of life, from different religious communities and age groups flocked to the national highway which traverses the whole of the state to make this wall a spectacular show of women's unity and resolve.

The Women's Wall was a collective response to the three month-long agitation against the Supreme Court verdict on the entry of women to the Sabarimala Temple. The agitation represents the regressive and communal forces who want to roll back the rights of women achieved through decades of social reform movements and struggles based on renaissance values.

The agitation led by the BJP and the RSS has seen repeated attempts to intimidate and assault women wanting to enter the temple, hartals, destruction of public property and open defiance of the court verdict. Shamefully, the Congress party has been acting in tandem with the RSS-BJP combine in challenging the Court verdict and undermining the Constitution.

Our women members as well as women family members of all union members discharged their responsibility by joining the wall by themselves.

### **Crony capitalism: Modi favours Adani Power**

1. Twelve days before elections dates were announced, Modi government on February 25 cleared the way for an Adani project in Jharkhand to become the first standalone power project in India to get the status and benefits of a Special Economic Zone. For this, the commerce ministry amended power-related guidelines for Special Economic Zones earlier this year.
2. Geared towards exports, Special Economic Zones get a host of duty-waivers, tax exemptions and faster clearances. The government decision to grant SEZ status to the Adani project will save the company billions of rupees in taxes – Rs 3.2 billion annually in clean energy cess alone.

# Brief Note on Recent Activities in J&K State

8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, Feb. National Strike

We could not organise the strike of electricity employees in J&K state because of almost regular Hartals, Curfew, and disturbances in Kashmir due to ongoing violence which has increase manifold after Modi regime came to power at the Centre but despite this situation and the heavy snow fall with minus temprature we organise a joint demonstration in slodarity with the striking employe-ees under the Banner of Jkctu to which our JKNGEEA is an affiliateevat the state level on 8th, Feb. both at Partab Park Srinagar nd Press club Jammu which was attended by hundreds of employees and workers including large number of women employees.

## STRUGGLE AGAINST UN BUNDLING OF POWERV-SECTOR IN J&K

The administrative council of Governors administration took a decision to speed up the process of un bundling of power sector and formed TRADECO and handed over the billing and Metering to the private contractors .Our organisation JKNGEEA took initiative and formed a joint plate form of different unions both at jammu and kashmir regions and held a massive demonstrations on

24th,Sept. 2018 outside the offices of Cheif engineers at canal road jammu and Beninasrinagar which was attended by hundreds of employees and workers and warned the administration to stop this move .we also held District level protests and a joint press conference on 14th, Oct. 18 at srinagar and warned to go for Strike. Meanwhile the kashmir chamber of commerce, econom-ic alliance group and civil society groups also supported us and opposed unbundling and held demonstrations at Srinagar.The Govt. Was forced to come to terms and call unions for negotiation and assured to stop this anti people and anti-employees move and not to proceed further but we found that during this struggle Graduate engineers association did not opposed the unbundling seriously but virtually support the Govt.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

We could held mobilise the membership because of pre-vailling situation here but we assure you comrades to deposit the membership before next working committee meeting.

Form IV (See Rule B)	
<p>1. Place of Publication</p> <p>2. Periodicity of Publication</p> <p>3. Printers Name Whether Citizen of India Address</p> <p>4. Publisher's Name Whether Citizen of India</p> <p>5. Editor's Name Whether Citizen of India</p> <p>6. Name and Address of Newspaper And Partners of Shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital</p> <p>Dated 12.5.2015</p>	<p>BT Ranadive Bhawan, 13A Rouse Avenue, New Delhi-110 002</p> <p>Quarterly Debabani Basu(Espace) Yes 74B, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata- 700 016 Joginder Sharma Yes Prasanta N Chowdhury Yes Electricity.Employees Federation of India 13A Rouse Avenue, New Delhi-110 002</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sd/- Prasanta N Chowdhury (Editor)</p>

# West Bengal State Electricity Workmens' Union

## Struggle on the way towards massive strike

During the last few months we, the electricity workers of WBSEDCL, WBSETCL & WBPDCCL had been on our heels to gear up for the massive strike on 8-9th January, 2019. First, we served the strike notice to the CMD in accordance with the provisions contained in Sec 22(1) of the INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES ACT 1947 & Sec 73(1) of the WEST BENGAL INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE RULES, 1958 and dispatched a copy of this to the secretary of the labour deptt. of Govt. of West Bengal & to the Labour Commissioner. Then we, on behalf of WBSE Workmens' Union, gave a clarion call to organize a massive sit & demonstration programme on 13-14th December, 2018 with all the central demands besides our inhouse demands as agenda. Almost every district organized the programme successfully with a huge turnout in each point. The determination of the workers to raise their voice against the anti worker policies of the govt. & management added to its success. Resentment was growing among every tier of employees for the last 33 months and our programme was perfect place of burst out. Adding to it some uniqueness were penetrated in the schedule to attract employees from the unions of the ruling party as well. Special mention is required for the WBSEDCL, TCL, PDCL headquarters, where the leadership of our union carried out a 2 days hunger strike with atleast 10 union members participating in that hunger strike & others alongwith the members of Murshidabad district reached out to all the engineers, officers & employees, urging all to participate in lunch boycott. The response was huge with atleast 80% of the workforce in these two areas actively participating. The Central Committee of our union led by President Com. Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury & General Secretary Com. Jiten Nandi delivered their speeches which motivated the employees and urged them to remain united amidst

every anti worker measures taken by the management. The leaders of the union were present in their respective districts to make this programme a huge success. In some districts the management was very much active and tried to take measures opposing the programme but firm intent from the employees achieved success. In the headquarter the leader of the Left Front committee in the legislative assembly, Dr. Sujan Chakraborty was also present to support the cause and promised to raise the matter inside the assembly in the upcoming sessions. With this assurance the employees ended their hunger strike for the time being. With this success in the kitty, our union also arranged a huge rally of electricity workers from WBPDCCL headquarter to WBSEDCL & TCL headquarters on 4th January 2019 and it showed an unexpected huge turnout of thousands of workers, employees & contractual workers as well. At the end of the rally the management directly instructed the police personnel to shut the gates so that the employees are unable to participate in the huge gate meeting. But once again the strong will of the employees spoiled the intent of the management and they pushed open the gates with huge cheer. Then the huge gathering was addressed by veteran leader of CITU, Com. Shyamal Chakraborty, Com. Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury, Com. Dipak Roy Chowdhury, Com. Jiten Nandi and one of the youngest leaders of our union Com. Baishakhi Kundu. All were determined to participate in the strike and the days of the strike also showed its reflection with active participation increasing rapidly from previous strike calls. In the days ahead we will be organizing similar such programmes to fight against Electricity (Amendment) bill 2018 ensuring more involvement of the workers, employees, officers & engineers.

### **Crony capitalism: Modi favours Adani Power**

3. In addition, with the amended guidelines mandating that all electricity generated in the SEZ be exported, Jharkhand could lose its share of electricity from the project.

# Central Organisation of Tamil Nadu Electricity Employees

A Report on All India General Strike on 8,9, January 2019

The All India General Strike in Tamil Nadu Electricity Sector was successfully carried out. As a preparation COTEE conducted our State Level Office Bearer and Executive Meeting and in this meeting importance of the movement was properly narrated, and extensive plan was made both in the OB and EC Meeting.

In this meeting it has been decided a strike call given by EEFI / NCCOEEE will be implemented in a proper manner.

In this meeting it was planned to conduct our branches office bearer and committee meeting to plan this strike. Nearly 50 branches Office Bearer meeting and committee meeting was conducted with a well attendance. Moreover our 9 Regional council meeting spread all over Tamil Nadu was also conducted and extensive planning was also made. Proper campaign and propaganda planning was made as our independent planning to carry out the National Strike in successful manner.

In addition to this the participants of the NCCOEEE unions meeting was also conducted and in that meeting it was decided to accommodate all the trade unions those who are participated in the discussion with the TNEB management in this movement.

On the decision, 18 unions were invited by the COTEE leadership and they have all participated in the meeting also agreed to take part in the National Strike, and an extensive plan was made for campaign purpose, nearly 2 lakh pamphlets were brought in the name of Joint Council Unions and it was distributed not only to the electricity workers but also among the public.

The effect of forming Joint action committee yielded a good

result for the strike; and campaign.

As a first preparation a state level convention was conducted in Chennai. More than 800 Employees and Engineers were participated and a good Message was delivered to the participants. Thiru Sylandra Dube a National Leader participated in the convention and delivered a valuable message for the employees.

As a second level preparation district level meetings were conducted by joint action committee formed circle level and JAC went among workers of electricity board explained about the importance of the strike. More than 200 gate meetings and street corner meeting were also conducted. In some districts propaganda among people also held.

In the mean time our Tamil Nadu electricity Regularity commission permitted a private company to distribute the electricity to a special economic Zone in Nangunary Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu. It is first licence to a private company permitted in a particular area to distribute electricity.

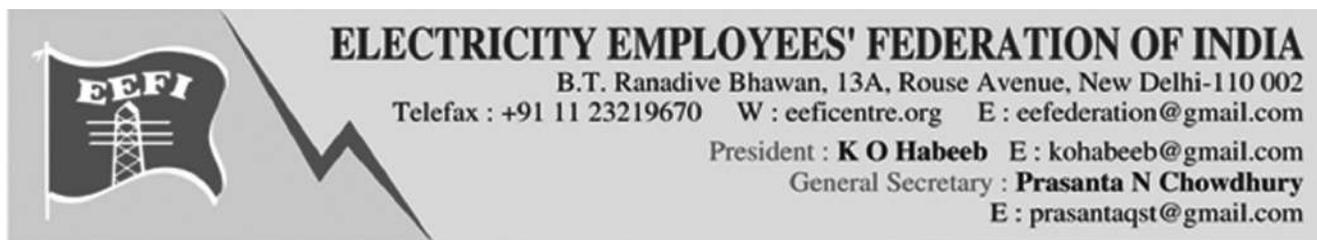
This issue was also utilized for over campaign purpose, and convention conducted. In this convention electricity employees and peasants were also participated in a good number.

On the first day of 8th January in TNHB nearly 24,740 were participated its amount 30% of the total workers and engineers and 2nd day 21609 were participated.

As a development even though other engineer forum away from the strike our engineer organisation were took part in the strike.

## **Defeat BJP led NDA**

**ELECT MORE LEFT PARLIAMENTARIANS TO FORM  
SECULAR GOVERNMENT TO SAVE THE DEMOCRACY OF INDIA**



No.

Date :

Circular No. 01/2019

19th February, 2019

Sub: Discussion and decisions arrived in the Working Committee meeting.

Meeting of the EEFI Office Bearers and Working Committee took place at BTR Bhawan, New Delhi on 7th and 8th February respectively. Com K O Habeeb presided over both the meetings. Salient Points of discussion and decisions arrived upon in the meeting are appended below for information and needful action on the part of all the affiliated and associated organisations.

1. 8-9th January, 2019 Strike :

EEFI Working Committee convey warm greetings to Indian Working Class for their valiant struggle to negate the policy of Government. Initial estimation goes to conceive that over 20 Crore toilers took part in the Strike.

Working Committee reviewed the independent as well united Strike preparatory campaign and propaganda for January 8-9 Strike and related activities in power sector.

Working Committee noted that most of our affiliated and associated organisations took the struggle seriously but response from other NCCOEEE constituents were not uniform everywhere. Wherever EEFI constituents are strong, NCCOEEE activities got very positive momentum. Notable participation in independent as well united campaign for making the strike successful was observed in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Himachal Pradesh & UT Chandigarh. Our organisation in these states took the lead role. While in U.P., A.P., Telangana, Maharashtra, M.P., Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand AIPF took lead role in association with AIFEE. In respect of participation in Strike our unions took part to make the strike successful. Participation varied between 20% and 95% in EEFI strong states. In addition to 12 Point charter of demands of Central Trade Unions, organisations of power sector workers, employees and Engineers made serious campaign to oppose Draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2018. Government remained silent since new Power Minister took over but responded to NCCOEEE on 3rd January assuring discussion over the draft.

2. Post Strike follow up activities & General Election:

Anxiety and fear phobia of the Government was reflected through its Budget placed in the Parliament on 1st February. Though they did not grant any real benefit or relief for the workers but posed to show their concern for the workers.

Working Committee discussed in depth over the anti-people divisive policies of Modi led RSS-BJP combine Government from the sphere of economy to social and cultural fabric of the country. Spreading of Corruption and communalism is going to disrupt the morale and uniqueness of unity and diversity of our country.

Next initiative of Indian working class movement before ensuing Parliamentary election, as preliminarily discussed will be to issue a Charter of Workers' Demands to all the Political parties by the united forum of central trade Unions and Federations asking them to clearly declare their view points on the issues of the workers through respective election manifesto. 8th and 9th January 2019 raised nationwide call: "Drive out Modi-BJP, Save India". EEFI requested CTU leadership to include the demand of opposing anti-people Electricity policy in the Charter.

### 3. Electricity Policy and our campaign in the forthcoming election:

Working Committee noted that the present Government is not in a position to enact / complete the legislation process of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2018. But all EEFI constituents are to continue their campaign involving wider section of people, against the attempt to snatch away right to electricity from poor Indian citizens through the proposed draconian Bill.

Modi Government has kept its high pitch campaign on 100% house hold electrification while the norm of village electrification with common use buildings like school, health Centre, Panchayat office and only 10% house hold has not been changed. We need to unveil the fallacy behind.

All EEFI constituents should continue to propagate this call to all its members and electricity users across the country through formal campaign, as well as the have scope to interact with them in the course of duty and social get together. We are to remind our countrymen whatever progress India has so far been achieved, contribution of publicly owned SEBs and PSUs were immense. Modi and his NITI Ayog are trying to transfer those public property to Adani-Ambani & their sponsoring company as gift, all Indians are to oppose it though their ballot. None of the members should remain idle in the forthcoming struggle to decide who will steer India for five years next.

### 4. TUI(Chemistry & Energy) Activities:

General Secretary reported activities of TUI(Chemistry & Energy) as discussed in the Executive meeting took place at Paris on 6th December followed by Peace Conference. Wherein, a Declaration on International Human Rights Law drafted by Spanish society for International Human Rights Law was placed for discussion and adoption. Copy of the Declaration was circulated among the members of the Working Committee. The Draft declaration is being once again circulated and hosted in our web site ([www.eeficentre.org](http://www.eeficentre.org)). Discussion and adoption was proposed for the next meeting of EEFI Working Committee.

### 5. Development and finalisation of Organisation Document:

Working Committee reviewed the status of the development of Organisation Document. Bhubaneswar Workshop discussed and arrived upon a conclusion on National level organisation framework as well status of EEFI centre. It was decided that all the states will complete respective state level workshop and send the respective document to EEFI centre. 1st session of Working Committee in 2019 as well final round Workshop will take place together in AP for consecutive two days. Com Suribabu identified the venue as Nellore. As reported, COTEE, KSEBWA and WBSEWMU have organised their state level Workshop and District level are on the way. Working Committee decided to fix the date line of 31st March for sending state level organisation document. EEFI organisation Document will be finalised by the earliest possible time after 31st March depending upon schedule of Parliamentary Election.

### 6. Dues and Fund Position:

Attention of the Working Committee was drawn to Fund position by Com. Subramanian, Treasurer. EEFI is experiencing severe paucity of funds. Some of the organisation has not yet paid their affiliation fees. All affiliates and associates who are defaulted for remitting various funds like Affiliation, Annual contribution in Struggle Fund, balance fund for TUI(Energy) Conference, 2018, General Secretary requested to call up EEFI decision to develop the struggle fund, as the expenditure for the organisation cannot be incurred out of Affiliation fees only. Hence, the struggle fund was proposed. Unions of weaker states may not be able to contribute in this fund. But major organisations like Kerala and TamilNadu used to contribute to the extent possible. This year no contribution in the struggle fund has been received. P. Ramamurti Bhawan, Voice and other dues may please remit the funds to EEFI Account as early as possible.

WBSEWMU, TBKU, ASESU, DVC SU, P&T CWU, UTPU, HPSEB BMEU, KSEBWA, AHPCWU and PBRBSSK Unions paid affiliation dues upto 2017.

7. Voice of Electricity Workers:

Next issue of the Voice will be published by end of February. All organisations may send their reports by 25th February. Dispatch address available for the annual subscribers has not been updated for a long period. Complaints are received from various states for non-receipt of organ. Hence, all are requested to update the address of the subscribers by the earliest possible time.

REQUEST FOR UPDATING THE DISPATCH ADDRESS WAS SENT TO ALL OF YOU VIDE NOTICEDATED - 11.09.2018. NO COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED YET. PLEASE EXPEDITE.

8. EEFI Website:

Frequency of updating of EEFI web site does not take place at desired level. National events are hoisted for webcasting but those are not taking place in very frequent interval. But our major constituents of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, AP, Telangana are organising Trade Union, political, social, cultural and educative activities throughout the year. If some of the photographs of the events with brief description are sent par mail to eeficentre@gmail.com and tilakkanungo@yahoo.in, or par WhatsApp to 09836355881 we shall be able to webcast those in our website. If Photographs are sent par WhatsApp, some English caption indicating short description of the Event Date, Place and Name of the organisation.

**Prasanta N. Chowdhury**  
General Secretary

### **Crony capitalism: Modi favours Adani Power**

4. The project that will be converted into an SEZ is a coal-fired power plant in Godda district of Jharkhand being built by Adani Power Limited, the power subsidiary of the Gautam Adani-led infrastructure conglomerate. Under a memorandum of understanding signed with Bangladesh in August 2015, the plant will mainly supply electricity to India's neighbour.

# Calcutta Electric supply Workmens Union

Works Report During the Period of September'18 to Feb'19

Agitation, movement and mass gathering organised and lead by our union along with our participation in movements of District, State and Central to establish the democratic right and other demands of workers.

i) On 5<sup>th</sup> September'18 'Majdoor Kissan Sanghash Rally' at Delhi—49 heads participated, which is higher than our previous participation in November 'Mahapadao'.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October our members participated in the concluding Rally of BPMO at Shaid Minar.

ii) On 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018—There is no democratic atmosphere in our workplace in CESC. It is known to all, the nexus of Management and TMC Union trumatised the general workers since 2014. Against that atrocities of management and on the demand of immediate settlement of charter of demands we organised a gate meeting jointly of regular and contractors employees on 12/10/18. In spite of natural calamities thousands of workers gathered on that rally. Com. Shyamal Chakrobarty, Com. Manab Mukherjee, Com. Debanjan Chakrobarty addressed the gathering, Tarun Bharadwaj and Mostaque Ali, the general secretary of the Union also address the rally and the meeting was presided over by Com. Debabrata Bindu.

8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> January all India General Strike : We organised a considerable numbers group meetings and gate meetings to success the strike of 48 hrs. In CESC 22% employees took part in General strike. Few TMC members also participated. But the Role of AITUC members were not good. On 7<sup>th</sup> January a rally in favour of strike was organised by CITU & AITUC Regular and Contractors Union of CESC from Lenin Statue to College square. A large number Electricity employees were participated, Shyamal Chakrobarty, General Secretary

EEFI, Prasanta Nandy Chawdhury, Manab Mukherjee and State Secretary of AITUC, Ujjal Choudhury were participated on that rally of Electricity Workers.

In spite of management's active opposition to the strike we made it success as our 28 Units took initiative for the strike of 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> January.

3<sup>rd</sup> February Brigade Rally : On the Call of "Trinamool Hatao Bangla Bachao" and BJP Hatao Desh Bachao" by the left front which was supported by CITU. We participated Brigade rally. On that period we engaged in the Campaign of Recognition of Trade Unions Election in our Industry. More than 1000 employees has participated on that rally to Brigad Parade Ground organised by our union and contractors union.

Election for Recognition of Trade Unions in CESC was held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019. In a undemocratic, trumatised atmosphere. We unitedly organised our campaign against that throat choking situation. They tornd our posters, flex in many departments forcefully. Despite that our members were couragiously continued the campaign activities posters and flex defying threats and corcien.

In the day of Election the nexus of Govt Adminastration that is labour Department and Police, the company managment and the TMC Party looted the right of the Voters. Our Union members tried to resist those TMC goons. A large number of our members were beaten like anything. Even the women employees had to face molestation. Their members also deprived from their voting right. That is a black day in the history of Trade Union movement.

**All Household electrification:  
Is the term "WILLING" a hoax to befool all ?**

## 8-9 जनवरी की राष्ट्रव्यापी आम हड़ताल का हरियाणा में व्यापक असर रहा - सुभाष लाम्बा

केन्द्रीय ट्रेड यूनियनों व कर्मचारी संघों के आह्वान पर केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार की जनविरोधी कर्मचारी व मजदूर विरोधी नीतियों के खिलाफ 8-9 जनवरी, 2019 को हुई हड़ताल का हरियाणा में व्यापक असर रहा। हड़ताल का बिजली निगमों, नगर निगमों, पालिकाओं, परिषदों, जनस्वास्थ्य, सिंचाई, लोक निर्माण, टूरिज्म, आईटीआई, राजस्व, पंचायत, हुडा, वन, स्वास्थ्य, महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग, शिक्षा, पशुपालन आदि विभागों में हड़ताल

पुरजोर समर्थन किया।

**हड़ताली कर्मचारियों व मजदूरों ने शहरों में किया प्रदर्शन:**

केन्द्रीय ट्रेड यूनियनों व कर्मचारी संघों के आह्वान पर आयोजित 8-9 जनवरी, 2019 को आयोजित हड़ताल के दौरान 8 जनवरी को कर्मचारियों व मजदूरों ने सभी खंडों और 9 जनवरी को सभी जिला मुख्यालयों पर प्रदर्शन किए। जिसमें बड़ी तादाद में ट्रेड



का असर रहा। अलग-अलग कारणों से परिवहन विभाग में हड़ताल का अपेक्षाकृत कम प्रभाव रहा। महर्षि दयानंद विश्वविद्यालय रोहतक, पं. भगवत दयाल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस रोहतक, चौ. देवीलाल रिसर्च एण्ड टेक्नोलॉजी सोनीपत, गुरु जंभेश्वर यूनिवर्सिटी हिसार में हड़ताल का व्यापक असर रहा। इन विश्वविद्यालयों में गैर शिक्षक कर्मचारी व अनुबंध कर्मचारी हड़ताल पर रहे। बिजली निगमों में अधिकतर कर्मचारियों के हड़ताल पर चले जाने के कारण उपभोक्ताओं को काफी परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ा। हड़ताली कर्मचारियों का प्रदेश में अखिल भारतीय किसान सभा, जनवादी महिला समिति, जनवादी नौजवान सभा, स्टूडेंट फैडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया आदि अनेक संगठनों ने

यूनियनों व कर्मचारी संगठनों से जुड़े कर्मचारियों, मजदूरों व स्कीम वर्करों ने हिस्सेदारी की। इन प्रदर्शनों में सीटू से सम्बंधित आंगनवाड़ी, आशा, मिड-डे मील व स्वयं सहायता समूह की महिलाओं ने भारी संख्या में भाग लिया।

**हड़ताल व प्रदर्शनों में 8 लाख से अधिक मजदूर व कर्मचारी शामिल हुए :**

केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार की जनविरोधी और मजदूर तथा कर्मचारी विरोधी नीतियों के खिलाफ आयोजित दो दिवसीय हड़ताल में 8 लाख से ज्यादा मजदूरों व कर्मचारियों के शामिल होने का अनुमान है। फरीदाबाद, सोनीपत व गुड़गांव में काफी उद्योग बंद रहे तथा औद्योगिक मजदूरों ने इंडस्ट्रीयल एरिया में जलूस निकाले। प्रदर्शनों

के दौरान मजदूरों व कर्मचारियों का केन्द्र तथा राज्य सरकार की नीतियों के खिलाफ आक्रोश देखते ही बन रहा था।

**11 नेताओं को किया गिरफ्तार और 5 को किया निलम्बित:**

हरियाणा सरकार ने अपना कर्मचारी विरोधी चरित्र एक बार फिर दिखाते हुए सर्व कर्मचारी संघ हरियाणा से सम्बंधित हरियाणा रोडवेज वर्कर्स यूनियन के राज्य प्रधान इन्द्र सिंह बधाना, अम्बाला डिपो के प्रधान रमेश श्योकंद, सचिव महाबीर पाई, सहसचिव



विक्रम, उपप्रधान सुरेश भनवाला को निलम्बित कर दिया। इसके अलावा हरियाणा रोडवेज वर्कर्स यूनियन के उपमहासचिव राम आसरे यादव, सचिव शहजाद खान, फरीदाबाद डिपो के प्रधान जितेन्द्र पाल धनखड़, सचिव रविन्द्र नागर, विरेन्द्र सिंह, सुरेश कुमार, महासंघ से सम्बंधित यूनियन के डिपो प्रधान जयसिंह गिल के खिलाफ एस्मा के तहत मुकद्दमे दर्ज कर दिए। अम्बाला जिले से 4, रोहतक से 4 व फरीदाबाद से 3 नेताओं को गिरफ्तार किया गया। सरकार ने परिवहन विभाग के सभी डिपो व सब-डिपों को पुलिस छावनी में तब्दील किया हुआ था। सभी डिपो और सब डिपो के आसपास धारा 144 लगाई हुई थी।

**बिजली निगमों में हड़ताल का व्यापक असर रहा :**

दो दिवसीय हड़ताल का बिजली वितरण निगमों व प्रसारण निगम में व्यापक असर रहा। उत्पादन निगम में अपेक्षाकृत कम हड़ताल रही। नेशनल कोर्डिनेशन कमेटी ऑफ इलैक्ट्रीसिटी इम्प्लाइज एण्ड इंजीनियर के घटक ऑल इंडिया पॉवर इंजीनियर एसोसिएशन व डिप्लोमा होल्डर इंजीनियर एसोसिएशन ने हड़ताल में शामिल होने की बजाय काले बिल्ले लगाकर हड़ताल के समर्थन की औपचारिकताएं पूरी की। हरियाणा स्टेट इलैक्ट्रीसिटी बोर्ड मुख्यालय भिवानी यूनियन ने अनुबंध कर्मचारियों को हड़ताल से दूर रखने का निर्णय लिया। नियमित कर्मचारियों ने भी हड़ताल को सफल बनाने का कोई अभियान नहीं चलाया।

इलैक्ट्रीसिटी इम्प्लाइज फैडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया एवं सर्व कर्मचारी संघ हरियाणा से सम्बंधित ऑल हरियाणा पॉवर कॉरपोरेशनज वर्कर यूनियन ने राज्य कार्यकारिणी की बैठक आयोजित कर सब-डिविजन, शिकायत केन्द्र तक सघनता के साथ अभियान चलाने का निर्णय लिया। इस अभियान के तहत डिविजन स्तर पर बैठकें आयोजित करने के उपरांत सभी सब-डिविजनों में गेट मीटिंगें आयोजित कर हड़ताल के मुद्दों को आम कर्मचारी तक ले जाया गया। जिसके परिणामस्वरूप ही वितरण निगमों में हड़ताल का व्यापक असर रहा।

**हड़ताल को सफल बनाने के लिए व्यापक तैयारियां की गई थी :**

सर्व कर्मचारी संघ हरियाणा की राज्य कार्यकारिणी की बैठक के उपरांत ऑल हरियाणा पॉवर कॉरपोरेशनज वर्कर यूनियन सहित

संघ से सम्बंधित सभी विभागीय संगठनों की राज्य कार्यसमिति, जिला कमेटियों व यूनिट तथा ब्रांच स्तर की बैठकें आयोजित की गई। सक्रिय विभागीय संगठनों ने अपने स्तर पर केन्द्रीय कमेटी के पदाधिकारियों के नेतृत्व में टीमों का गठन कर जनसम्पर्क अभियान चलाते हुए गेट मीटिंगें आयोजित की। सर्व कर्मचारी संघ हरियाणा की केन्द्रीय कमेटी के नेताओं में गठित 4 टीमों व जिला स्तर पर गठित सैकड़ों टीमों ने भी ज्यादातर विभागों में गेट मीटिंगें आयोजित कर हड़ताल का सफल बनाने का आह्वान कर्मचारियों से किया।

**हड़ताल के अभियान में निम्न मुद्दों को प्रमुखता से उठाया गया :**

हड़ताल की तैयारियों को लेकर प्रदेश स्तर पर चलाए गए अभियान

वापिस लेने, समान काम-समान वेतन लागू करने, महंगाई पर रोक लगाने, आंगनवाड़ी, आशा, मिड-डे मील वर्कर्स को सरकारी कर्मचारी का दर्जा व वेतनमान देने, 18 हजार रुपए न्यूनतम वेतनमान देने, रिक्त पड़े पदों को स्थायी भर्ती से भरने, वास्तविक खर्च पर आधारित कैशलेस मेडिकल सुविधा प्रदान करने, छठे वेतन आयोग की विसंगतियों को दूर करते हुए सातवें वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों अनुसार मकान किराए भत्ते में बढ़ोतरी करने और भाजपा द्वारा विधानसभा चुनाव के समय जारी घोषणा पत्र में कर्मचारियों से किए गए वायदों पर अमल करने आदि मुद्दों को प्रमुखता से उठाया। जिसका कर्मचारियों ने भरपूर समर्थन किया।

**21 फरवरी को करेंगे संसद कूच :**



में जनसेवाओं के विभागों में लागू की जा रही जनविरोधी नीतियों पर रोक लगाने, पुरानी पेंशन स्कीम व एक्सग्रेसिया रोजगार स्कीम को बहाल करने, निजीकरण, ठेका प्रथा, आऊटसोर्सिंग व पीपीपी की नीतियों पर रोक लगाना, श्रम कानूनों में पूंजीपतियों के हकों में किए जा रहे श्रमिक विरोधी संशोधनों पर रोक लगाने, सभी विभागों में आऊटसोर्सिंग, डीसी रेट, अनुबंध आधार पर लगे कर्मचारियों की सेवाएं पक्की करने, बिजली संशोधन बिल-2018 को वापिस लेने, रोड ट्रांसपोर्ट एण्ड सेफ्टी बिल को

दो दिवसीय हड़ताल की समाप्ति पर सर्व कर्मचारी संघ हरियाणा ने 21 फरवरी को संसद कूच का ऐलान किया। अखिल भारतीय राज्य सरकारी कर्मचारी फैडरेशन के आह्वान पर यह संसद कूच पुरानी पेंशन स्कीम को बहाल करने और सभी विभागों, बोर्डों, निगमों व विश्वविद्यालयों में कार्यरत अनुबंध आधार पर लगे कर्मचारियों की सेवाएं नियमित करने, समान काम-समान वेतन और जॉब सिक्योरिटी आदि मांगों को लेकर किया जाएगा। जिसमें सभी राज्यों के कर्मचारी शामिल होंगे।

## 59th Conference of Assam State Electricity Supply Mazdoor Union concluded with a vow to intensify struggle to save public Electricity Service.

The 59th Conference of Assam State Electricity Supply Mazdoor Union had a successful conclusion, that held in the historical town of Mangoldoi having glorious past of militant freedom struggle of peasants against British Rule, on 21,22 and 23rd December,2018. The firm resolution of the conference, a congregation of 250 delegates of Electricity Workers all over the State, was to intensify the struggle of Electricity Workers in the state against any



move of Government to privatise and dismantle the public electricity, which in turn materialized in the historical participation of more than three thousand Electricity Workers/Engineers in picketing and Demonstration in the Two Days All India General Strike on 8th and 9th January,2019 and making it a total success in the state.

The delegate session of the conference was held in the Sanatan Dharma Sava premise, which was presided over by presidium consisting of Com. Pitambar Talukdar, Com. Rabin Borah and Com. Rambha Ghimire, this was preceded by Union Flag hoisting by Com. Pitambar Talukdar. The delegate session was inaugurated by Com. Prasanta Nandi Choudhury, General Secretary, EEFI. In his speech, Com. Prasanta Nandi Choudhury urged the Workers assembled to raise and unite against draconian plan of Central Government to further dismantle the Distribution Sector in name of Carriage and Content as proposed in the Draft Electricity (Amendment) Act,2018. The Report was placed by General Secretary witnessing a threadbare discussion from 23 nos of delegates.

The second day of the conference marked with a cheerful and all vibrant Electricity workers procession which

encircled the Mangoldoi Town with roaring slogan for Save Public Electricity, Ensure Right to Electricity as Human Right, Scrap Electricity(Amend) Bill,2018, Enhance State Own Generation etc. An open session was one of the main agenda of the Conference on the second day. The open session was presided over Com. Pitambar Talukdar. The dais was marked with the presence of National Leaders like Com. Prasanta Nandi Choudhury,

GS EEFI, Com. Swadesh Dev Roy, Working President, EEFI, Com. Deben Bhattacharya, Vice President, CI-TU,Assam, Com. Dipak Saha, President, Assam State Electricity Workers Union. All the speakers urged the audience for tough preparation in the days to come for an intensive struggle against Government anti-people, anti-workers and anti-peasant policy. Both the leaders from EEFI brief about how Government policy would be detrimental for the Public sector electricity in general and conducive to curb peoples right for electricity. A souvenir 'Smarik Chetana' is released to mark this conference.

The conference was concluded on 23rd December,2018 with a 20 point charter of Demand comprising demand for Regularization of all temporary/outourced employees in the State Electricity Companies, to scrap Draft Electricity(amendment)act,2018, Stop privatisation of electricity etc. The conference elected a new Central Working Committee with strength of 65 numbers of member. Com. Kumud Sarma was elected as President and Com. Nayanjyoti Chakravarty was elected General Secretary.

# PAC seeks inquiry into approval of RIL's gas field cost without third party validation

Eastern offshore KG-D6 block had courted controversies when allegations of gold-plating or inflating the cost were levelled against RIL

NEW DELHI: The Parliament's Public Accounts Committee has sought an inquiry into oil regulator DGH-led panel approving Reliance Industries' \$1.529 billion plan for developing four satellite gas discoveries in KG-D6 block without an independent validation and sought disciplinary action against guilty officers. Eastern offshore KG-D6 block, once considered the most prolific in India, had courted controversies when allegations of gold-plating or inflating the cost were levelled against RIL when it had in 2007 revised estimated investment to \$8,836 billion from \$2.47 billion proposed in 2004 and then failed to deliver on the promised output.

It brought in caution in the establishment and demands for the appointment of an independent validation when RIL in December 2009 submitted a field development plan for four satellite gas discoveries in the same block.

The optimized field development plan (OFDP) was approved by block oversight panel, called Management Committee (MC), which is headed by Director General of the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), in January 2012.

"The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had directed DGH to engage a third party for validation of capex but no third party could be engaged and the MC approved OFDP without waiting for the decision of MoPNG in this regard," the PAC said in a report tabled in Parliament Wednesday.

It did not agree with the ministry's submission that actual capital expenditure gets independently validated when the annual accounts are audited and the cost recovery is restricted to actual expenditure irrespective of the estimates projected by an operator

"In the opinion of the Committee, the reply of the Ministry renders the whole process of validation of estimates, plans etc. redundant. Further, when the Ministry had asked for independent validation, the direction should have been followed scrupulously and the Ministry instead of accepting its lackadaisical monitoring and taking action against the MC is giving lame ex-

cuses," the report said.

The PAC felt that the decision of not appointing the third party for validation could be deliberate so that the ministry gets flexibility in the decision making.

"The Committee desires that the decision for not appointing the third party for validation may be inquired into and disciplinary action taken against the officers found responsible," it said.

It did not accept the ministry's submission that "the MC was to approve the development plan as per the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) timelines and since no third party could be appointed, the proposal was approved without third-party validation based on consensus decision of DGH."

RIL had in July 2008 submitted a development plan for nine satellite gas discoveries for approval of the MC which it found unviable at the then prevailing gas price of \$4.2 per million British thermal unit. Subsequently, in December 2009, RIL submitted an OFDP for four satellite discoveries which after considering changes in certain assumptions was approved in January 2012.

The \$8,836 billion cost was for Dhirubhai-1 and 3 gas fields, the first two of the 19 discoveries in the block. The cost for four satellites was additional and was to produce 10.36 million standard cubic metres per day of gas by 2016-17 but the start of work was delayed because of technical and commercial factors. Gas is now expected by 2022.

The PAC went into the 2011 CAG report that castigated the Petroleum Ministry for allowing RIL to retain its entire eastern offshore KG-D6 block in contravention of the PSC. The PAC submitted its first report in April 2016 in which it had stated that exploration cost on unviable finds cannot be disallowed.

In the second report on the subject tabled in Parliament Wednesday, the PAC asked the government to bring out a comprehensive policy on how discoveries can be declared commercially viable. "Constant efforts may be made to cut down procedural delays especially wherever

huge financial implications are involved.” it said.

It also wanted timelines for approvals to be prescribed and internal controls adequately strengthened.

The PAC was, however, critical of inordinate delays in submission of final action taken replies on its April 2016 report.

“The Committee is dismayed to note the callous attitude of both Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Min-

istry of Law and Justice in the delayed submission of Action Taken Replies and opine that instances of such nature should definitely be obviated in future.” the report said.

Government auditor CAG did not say in its September 2011 report if the capital expenditure for KG-D6 being raised from \$2.4 billion proposed in 2004 to \$8.8 billion in 2006 was unjustified or inflated.

## Power Sector: Looming NPA Crisis Cannot Be Resolved Without Reversing 2003 Reforms

But even a recent report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy actually praises delicensing in power generation — which opened the floodgates to the present mess with stressed power assets worth Rs 1.74 lakh crore — while putting the blame and the onus elsewhere.

Praneta Jha

Indian banks are already saddled with bad loans so enormous that their weight, if not watched, can make the entire banking system collapse — the gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of all banks crossed Rs 10 lakh crore this March, accounting for 11.6% of all loans given by all banks (public or private).

But this weight stands poised to only grow, the RBI estimates the proportion of NPAs to rise to 12.2% by next March — and the country’s power sector with its huge outstanding debt and still worsening crisis is the next biggest offender in line that the government and banks are scrambling to tackle.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) classifies a loan or an advance as an NPA if its interest and/or installment of principal remains overdue for a period of 90 days in respect of term loan. An asset (including a leased asset) becomes non-performing when it stops generating income for the bank.

The power sector — private/corporate power generating companies, to be specific — owes loans of more than Rs 1.74 lakh crore that are on the verge of being classified as NPAs, as stated by a recent report (37th report) of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy that was presented in the Lok Sabha in March.

A total of 34 thermal power projects were identified by the committee as being ‘stressed’. Out of these 34 plants, 32 thermal power generating plants belong to

private companies while only two are from the public sector. In fact, stressed assets made up around 17.67% (Rs. 98,799 crores) of the total advances given out in the thermal power sector (as of June 2017).

‘Stressed assets’ are basically those accounts where there has been delay in payment of interest/principal by a stipulated date — although they are not yet classified as NPAs — because the borrower is facing financial difficulty.

The capacity of these stressed thermal power plants amounts to 40,130 MW. Out of the total stressed capacity, about 24,405 MW is the capacity of plants that have been commissioned (begun production) while the remaining — 15,725 MW — is under construction and/or not yet commissioned.

As outlined in the standing committee report, the 32 stressed power projects run by corporates include big names like the Adani Group — which has outstanding debt of Rs 11,765 crore on its Tirora project in Maharashtra and of Rs 3,099 crore on its Korba West project in Chhattisgarh.

Then there is the Jaypee Group, which owes the banks Rs 11,493.5 crore on account of its Bara power plant in Uttar Pradesh, Rs 6,211 crore on its Nigrie plant in Madhya Pradesh and Rs 2,253.85 crore on its Bina project, also in Madhya Pradesh.

The Lanco Group has outstanding debt of Rs 8,782 crore on its Amarkantak power plant in Madhya Pradesh, Rs 6,976 crore on its Babandh project in Odisha, Rs 4,762 crore on its Vidarbha project in Maharashtra and Rs 3,071 crore on its Anpara project in Uttar Pradesh.

The GMR Group owes the banks Rs 2,905 crore on the Warora project in Maharashtra, Rs 8,173.9 crore on the Raikheda project in Chhattisgarh and Rs 4,100 crore on the Kamalanga project in Odisha.

The Essar Group has outstanding debt of Rs 5,951 crore on its Mahan power plant in Madhya Pradesh and Rs 3,112 crore on its Tori plant in Jharkhand.

The Jindal Group's power project at Derang in Odisha has an outstanding debt of Rs 5,381 crore.

The GVK group's Goindwal Saheb project in Punjab owes Rs 3,523 crore.

The KSK Power Group's Mahanadi power project at Akaltara in Chhattisgarh alone has an outstanding debt of Rs 17,194 crore.

Athena power group's Singhitarai power plant at Chattisgarh owes Rs 5,256 crore.

The Avantha Group's Jhabua power project in Madhya Pradesh has outstanding debt of Rs 3,488 crore.

The East Coast group's Bhavanpadu plant in Andhra Pradesh owes Rs. 2,834.09 crore.

The Adhunik Group's Mahadev Prasad power project in Jharkhand owes 2,473.63 crore to the banks.

These are just to name a few. But how did the situation become so bad? How did these large conglomerates end up burdening the banks to such devastating degrees?

The companies have cited a few factors — which are 'outside their control' as they argued before the RBI — for the mess they are in, such as shortage of coal and fuel supply agreements, lack of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with state-owned distribution companies, etc.

The standing committee report too identifies the major reasons for these power plants becoming stressed as such:

- Non-availability of Fuel:
  - Cancellation of allotted coal blocks (in 2014, the Supreme Court had cancelled 214 coal block allocations from 1993 to 2010 declaring the allocations as illegal and arbitrary)
  - Projects set up without fuel linkage
- Lack of enough PPA by states (out of the stressed

commissioned capacity of 24,405 MW, there are PPAs for 16,129 MW)

- Inability of the Promoter to infuse the equity and working capital
- Contractual/Tariff related disputes
- Issues related to Banks/Financial Institutions (FIs).
- Delay in project implementations leading to cost overrun.
- Aggressive bidding by developers in PPA.

But without going into these reasons in detail here, let us be clear that these are not the reasons that gave birth to the crisis. Rather, they can be seen as other factors and even consequences of the original move that opened the floodgates for the crisis to inevitably build up and reach its current state.

The power sector crisis can be traced back to the reforms ushered in by the Electricity Act 2003 — a legislation which was meant specifically to induct and promote the private sector in power generation, as even the standing committee report admits, albeit in glowing terms.

Following the World Bank model of "unbundling", the 2003 Act saw the trifurcation of the state electricity boards into three different sub-sectors based on their functions — generation, transmission and distribution. At present, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh are the only states that have not trifurcated their integrated state electricity boards.

The reason for this unbundling was that the private companies could then enter into the more profitable and supposedly safer aspects of the power sector, mainly generation. So while distribution remained largely with the state governments, except for a few places with more or less disastrous results, generation saw the entry of private companies enter in a huge way.

As the standing committee report says, the share of private sector in the overall installed thermal power capacity grew from 13% in March 2007 to 44% in March 2017. Most damagingly, however, in order to make it even easier for the private players, the 2003 Act brought in delicensing for thermal power generation.

This meant that any company could set up a thermal power plant — without requiring to obtain a licence first — as long as it complies with the technical standards relating to grid connectivity.

But the companies had to arrange everything else required to produce power on their own — such as land,

water, procuring the coal linkage through the fuel-supply agreements, finance options, and obtaining the necessary clearances. Even the sale of power through the power-purchase agreements (PPAs) with the state-owned distribution companies (discoms) had to be arranged by the private developer of the power project through the tariff-bidding process, which was also brought in by the 2003 Act.

Still it would have remained the companies' headache to take care of — and not spilled over to the banks — had it not been for perhaps the most devastating move of them all.

Priority sector lending of nationalised banks was made available to these private companies under the then finance minister, P Chidambaram. In any case, keeping with the overall pro-privatisation policies, the banks were encouraged to lend money to these private companies for setting up power plants. So the banks lent and lent, and the corporates kept jumping into generation one after another.

In fact, loans were taken by the private companies often without even making sure that the pre-conditions were met — such as making sure there is an assured supply of coal.

As per the coal linkage details given by the standing committee report (furnished by the power ministry), linkage is available only for 11,050 MW of capacity — out of the total 40, 130 MW stressed capacity. For 3,830 MW, coal blocks had been allotted but are under dispute; 1,800 MW are working with imported coal; for 7,725 MW linkage is still required while for 6,150 MW, linkage has been allotted or is in the process of being allotted under the SHAKTI scheme of the Centre.

In fact, it's not just the banks that stand to pay the price (with public money, of course). The discoms too are suffering massive losses; as of 2015-16, their accumulated losses had reached Rs 4.14 lakh crore while their debt had risen to 4.22 lakh crore.

Many private developers had forced the state discoms to sign PPAs for a period of 25 years with a 'deemed generation' clause — meaning that the discoms would have to pay the power producer even if and when the electricity is not being taken by the discoms, for example, during the lean periods.

Then there are the cases of power producers who quoted extremely low tariffs in the bidding process to win the PPA and they had either overestimated their own

efficiencies and/or not taken into account other market factors. For example, what happened with Adani and Tata in Gujarat, whereby they aggressively sought an increase in the tariffs, in violation of the PPAs. But the way the BJP government in Gujarat has responded to the crisis— intensified as Adani and Essar had even cut supply — shows whose welfare the government cares about.

So besides the unplanned and haphazard capacity addition, private power plant owners resorted to all kinds of shenanigans to make their profits.

This is where the roots of this problem of stressed power assets spring from.

However, the standing committee report — while talking about the delicensing — refuses to blame any of the current ills of the power sector on the delicensing itself. Instead, while putting the onus on the government and the banks to come up with a solution to address the various related issues and "streamline the sector", it actually praises the delicensing.

"The absence of licenses for generation of electricity has only provided an opportunity for the developers to eschew an inconsequential formality as sector have to be opened if we want to invite competition, efficiency, transparency and growth... The responsibility dwells upon the Ministry of Power to ensure that promotional and regulatory activities are done in an expected manner. They cannot be absolved from their role and responsibility on the ground of the generation being delicensed," the report says.

Meanwhile, the BJP-led NDA government and leading bankers have been working hard to come up with a plan to bail out these private and corporate players without them having to face insolvency — as the 12 February circular by the RBI with a revised framework for the Resolution of Stressed Assets would have entailed.

The RBI mandated that creditors to companies that are defaulting on loans of Rs 2,000 crore or more, as on 1 March 2018, will have to implement a Resolution Plan within 180 days — or file for insolvency under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) within 15 days from the expiry of the deadline. As per the RBI's timeline, the deadline for most of these private power generators was end of August.

The power ministry and the private companies requested the RBI for a special dispensation for the power sector, and asked for at least 12 up to 18 months. The RBI

refused, and a group of power generation companies under the banner of Independent Power Producers' Association of India approached the Allahabad High Court, which on 1 June granted a reprieve to these companies from facing insolvency proceedings till the finance ministry met with stakeholders to work out if and how the issue could be resolved. Several unsuccessful attempts at strategies to deal with the stressed power assets, which began even before the court ruling, followed.

For example, in July beginning, a committee of bankers set up by the government to work out a resolution plan came up with a "five-pronged strategy" called Project Sashakt. But it was clearly inadequate, because at

the end of July, the Modi government again set up an empowered committee headed by cabinet secretary PK Sinha, who is also former power secretary.

However, none of these efforts are going to resolve the crisis in the power sector, or help the country's banks, as long as the disastrous changes introduced by the 2003 "reforms" are not addressed and reversed. The government must examine and honestly acknowledge the impact of the Electricity Act 2003 — and put the blame where it rightly belongs; something that the Parliamentary Standing Committee report did not do. A misdiagnosis of the problem will not lead to any effective and lasting solutions.

## Workers Charter of Demands

Adopted at National Convention of Workers  
On 5th March 2019, Constitution Club Annexe, New Delhi

Dear worker brothers and sisters!

We, the workers, along with the peasants and other toiling people produce the wealth of our country. It is we who contribute to the economic growth of our country. Yet our burning issues, our serious problems, and our urgent demands have been totally neglected by the government at the centre.

The joint trade union movement has been repeatedly raising the issues of concern to the working class for the last many years. We have repeatedly tried through various means, the latest being the two days' country wide general strike which has received massive support from all sections of the toiling people, to bring our demands to the notice of the government and sought redress, but to no avail.

Today, the country is in a deep crisis. All aspects of our daily life, as that of peasants and agricultural workers and other working people are in crisis. The hard won trade union and labour rights are under attack. Agrarian crisis and rural distress continue unabated. Thousands of peasants are committing suicide. Agricultural workers and poor peasants find no work in the rural areas and are migrating to the cities in large numbers competing with the unorganised sector workers for low paying jobs without any social security.

Prices of all essential commodities, housing, transport,

electricity, education and health etc are increasing. But wages of workers have stagnated. In many sectors and for most of the contract, casual and daily wage workers and workers in the unorganised sector, in fact real wages have come down due to the price rise. The workforce in the informal economy being worst sufferers are devoid of any kind of social security. The workers in tea & coffee plantation continue to be fleeced by employers and those in sick industries are on the verge of losing jobs.

The government is stubbornly refusing to implement the consensus recommendation of the Indian Labour Conference to notify minimum wages as per the 15th ILC formula along with the Supreme Court judgment in the Raptakos & Brett case.

It is not implementing the Supreme Court judgment and the consensus recommendation of the ILC on equal pay and benefits to the contract, casual workers doing the same job as permanent workers.

Despite the consensus recommendation of the ILC the government refuses to recognise the around 1 crore workers engaged in its various schemes, most of them women, as workers. It pays shamefully low remuneration to them in the name of 'honorarium'/'incentive' etc. Labour force participation of women is on a continuous down fall. Discrimination against women workers con-

tinues. Sexual harassment at workplace is on the rise.

Unemployment has become a matter of serious concern, not only for the youth but also to hundreds of thousands of workers who are losing their jobs due to closure and shut down of industries. Employment generation has in fact turned negative in most of the labour intensive sectors.

Despite strong opposition from the workers and their trade unions, the government is aggressively pushing ahead with its programme of amending labour laws, for its goal of climbing up the ladder of 'Ease of Doing Business Index'. It has decided to scrap 44 central labour laws merging them into 4 labour codes. The intention is to deprive the workers of whatever little rights and social security benefits that they have achieved through decades of struggles and sacrifices and push them into virtual slaves of the employers.

Even before amending labour laws it has found an innovative way to gift employers with the right to 'hire and fire'. It has extended Fixed Term Employment to all sectors through a notification. Through programmes like NEEM (National Employability Enhancement Mission) and NETAP (National Employment Through Apprenticeship Programme), the government seeks to finish permanent employment altogether. Even contract workers are being replaced by apprentices and trainees. The future of our young looks dismal with no permanent employment, job security or social security.

The government has also been adamantly pursuing its policy of privatisation through disinvestment, strategic sale, outright sale etc. It has allowed 100% FDI in all strategic sectors like defence production, railways, insurance, banking, retail trade, etc. It is moving in the direction of denationalisation of coal mining sector and allowed private commercial coal mining. 600 railway stations along with the land around them belonging to the Railways have been identified for handing over to private players. Around 272 items being produced by the public sector ordinance factories including weapons and critical equipment, have been outsourced. Contrary to the claims of 'Make in India', these measures will destroy our manufacturing capability and research initiatives assiduously developed through the last six decades. Public sector undertakings in other strategic sectors like energy, petroleum, telecom, steel, civil aviation, ports, non coal mines, road transport etc. are also under the privatisation onslaught of the government.

The government has totally neglected its constitutional obligation of providing universal education and health to all its citizens. While government schools, colleges and hospitals are being deprived of finances and neglected, private corporates in the education and health sector are being provided exemptions and concessions.

The demonetisation causing sudden withdrawal of over 86% of the currency has not only caused immense hardship to common people, lakhs of small and medium enterprises have been closed. Lakhs of workers in the unorganised sector have lost their jobs. Lakhs of small peasants have lost their incomes. Not one of the declared goals while pronouncing demonetization was achieved. It was only the digital payment platforms that have benefited.

GST too has wrecked havoc with the lives of the small enterprises and lakhs of workers employed in these. Thousands of small and medium enterprises and retail traders are yet to recover from its impact.

Thousands of crores of rupees, money that the workers and the common people have saved in public sector banks is being looted by corporate swindlers who are defaulting and fleeing the country. Over 80% of the NPAs of banks are due to the big corporate houses, not more than fifty in number. The government which declines to spend adequate money to ensure basic needs and social welfare to the poor is providing tax concessions and exemptions worth more than Rs 5 lakh crores every year to the big corporates, domestic and foreign.

It is clear that this government is working overtime for the benefit of their corporate masters. It is resorting to authoritarian measures to suppress opposition and resistance to its policies. People, social and human rights activists working to safeguard the democratic rights of dalits, minorities and workers are branded 'anti national', persecuted and even killed.

Not only that. The government at the centre is promoting hatred and animosities and encouraging spreading of communal venom by the various communal organisations. This is meant to divide the workers and other sections of toiling people, disrupt their unity and weaken their struggles against the neoliberal policies. These attempts to foment hatred and hostility on the basis of religion, caste, region, language etc are a serious threat to working class unity, which the utmost need of the hour to intensify our struggles against the neoliberal policies that have been attacking our lives and livelihoods.

We, the workers, have been unitedly fighting against these policies since the last over two decades. We have jointly conducted 18 country wide general strikes during this period in addition to scores of sectoral strikes. The participation of workers in these strikes has been continuously increasing.

But when it comes to elections, through which the governments that formulate the policies so vital to our livelihoods and living conditions are elected are concerned, most of the major political parties are totally silent about us or on our issues. Our issues, our demands, the issues and demands of the workers and other sections of toiling people, not even the basic issues and problems relating to a decent and humane living and livelihood get any place in the discourse during elections. Many of the political parties try to consider people as 'vote banks' on the lines of religion, caste or sub caste, region etc. and take them for granted. Issues not at all concerned with our day to day problems or demands are raised to provoke and polarise people for their electoral benefits. After coming to power, we are totally neglected by the parties. Those in government start obeying orders of their corporate donors and enrich themselves in the process.

How long should this continue? While we need to defeat the present BJP led government which has been aggressively pursuing anti worker, anti people and anti national policies, we should also demand reversal of these policies and formulation of alternative pro worker and pro people policies, whichever government comes to power at the centre.

It is time that workers' issues are raised during the elections. It is time that workers' issues form a major part of the discourse during elections. Let us place our demands, the Workers' Charter, before the political parties and compel them to concretely express their stand on these issues before we decide whom to vote.

#### Workers' Charter:

- Fix national minimum wage as per the recommendations of 15th Indian Labour Conference and Supreme Court judgement in the Raptakos & Brett case, which has been reiterated unanimously by subsequent 45th and 46th Indian Labour Conference.
- Abolish Contract Labour system in perennial nature of job pending which strictly implement equal wage and benefits to contract workers doing the same job as permanent workers, as per Supreme Court judgement.
- Stop outsourcing and contractorisation of jobs of permanent and perennial nature.
- Strict implementation of equal pay for equal work for men and women as per Indian Constitution and equal remuneration act and also reiterated by Supreme Court.
- Minimum Support Price for the produce of the farmers as per the recommendations of Swaminathan Commission, strengthen public procurement system.
- Loan waiver to farmers and Institutional credit for the small and marginal farmers.
- Comprehensive legislation covering social security and working conditions for all workers including agricultural workers.
- Take immediate concrete measures to control sky rocketing prices of essential commodities; ban speculative trading in essential commodities. Expand and strengthen public distribution system; no compulsory linkage of Aadhar to avail services of PDS.
- Check unemployment through policies encouraging labour intensive establishments; link financial assistance/incentives/concessions to employers with employment generation in the concerned establishments; fill up all vacant posts in government departments; lift the ban on recruitment and 3% annual surrender of government posts.
- Assure minimum pension of Rs 6000 per month and indexed pension to all.
- Recognise workers employed in different government schemes, including anganwadi workers and helpers, ASHAs and others employed in the National Health Mission, Mid day Meal workers, Para teachers, teaching and non teaching staff of National Child Labour Projects, Gramin chowkidars etc as workers and pay minimum wages, social security benefits including pension etc to all of them.
- Immediately revoke 'Fixed Term Employment' which is in violation of the spirit of ILO Recommendation 204 which India has ratified.
- Stop disinvestment/strategic sale of public sector

undertakings. Give revival package to the important PSUs in the public interest.

- Revival and opening of sick Jute, industries and Tea plantations, as thousands of workers in these industries are facing distress, malnutrition and deaths due to closure.
- Revoke the decision to privatise Railways, Defence, Port and Dock, Banks, Insurance, Coal etc. Immediately revoke decision allowing commercial mining of coal mines.
- Stop privatising Defence production and closure of Defence Units. Strengthen and expand State Owned Defence Industry to achieve self reliance in Defence.
- Stringent measures to recover bad loans in Banks, take criminal action against deliberate corporate defaulters, Do not pass on the burden of bad loans on banking public through penalties and higher service charges. Stop merger and amalgamation of public sector Banks. Stop closure of Bank Branches. Increase interest rate on Bank deposits to offset inflation rate.
- Periodical wage revision to all CPSU Workers without insisting any affordability condition.
- Withdraw the Motor Vehicle Act (Amendment) Bill 2017, and Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2018.
- Immediately resolve the issues of the central government employees related to the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission.
- Scrap NPS and restore the Old Pension Scheme.
- Stop anti worker and pro employer amendments to the labour laws and codifications. Ensure strict implementation of the existing labour laws.
- Implement paid maternity leave of 26 weeks, maternity benefit and crèche facilities for women workers no incentive be given to employers who are following amended provision of Maternity Benefit Act as proposed by the Government.
- Strict implementation of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act. For increase political participation immediate enactment on 33% reservation for women in state legislatures and Parliament.
- Ratify ILO Conventions 87 and 98 on Freedom of Association and Right to Collective Bargaining along with the ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Workers.
- Stop dilution of OSH & Welfare provisions through merger of 13 Acts in one Code. Ensure implementation of existing Acts and rules. Vacant posts of factory inspectors, Mines inspectors etc and lift ban on inspections. Ratify ILO C-155 and recommendation 164 related to OSH & Environment. Tripartite audit of human and financial loss due to accident should be mandatory.
- Strengthen Bipartism and Tripartism; make recognition of trade union by the employers mandatory in every establishment; no decision should be taken on any issue related to labour without consensus through discussion with trade unions, ensure regular, meaningful social dialogue with workers representatives.
- Cut the subsidies given to the corporates.
- Right to work as fundamental right by amending the Constitution.
- 300 days of work under MGNREGA. Enact similar legislation to cover urban areas. Fix minimum wages not less than minimum wages of the state.
- Strict measures to stop the inhuman practice of manual scavenging. Compensation, as per Supreme Court judgment, to the families who die while cleaning sewers.
- Strict implementation of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act
- Immediately fill up all backlogs in the posts reserved for SC/ST; reservation of jobs for SC/ST in private sector employment also.
- No eviction of Adivasis from their habitats, strict implementation of Forest Rights Act for Adivasis.
- Protect couples opting for inter-caste and inter-religious marriages. Ensure strict actions against those encouraging/ resorting to so called 'honour killings'.
- Ensure strict punishment for all guilty of rape and other cases of violence against women. Make such offences "Rarest of the rare" with capital punishment to ensure safety of women in letter and spirit.
- Ensure effective implementation of Article 51 A of the Constitution that calls upon all citizens to promote harmony, spirit of common brotherhood, diversities and to transcend religious, linguistic, regional and sectional culture and to denounce policies de-

rogatory to the dignity of women.

- Free and compulsory education to all children up to Class XII along with technical education. The budget allocation for education should be 10% of the GDP.
- Free health care for all. Strengthen health infrastructure, particularly in the rural and tribal areas. Increase government expenditure on health to 5% of GDP.
- Portable drinking water be provided to whole populace.
- Protection of street vendors should be ensured. States should frame rules accordingly.
- In order to protect the interests of Home Based Workers which is women dominated sector ILO Convention 177 for Home Work be ratified alongwith an Act for Home Based Workers.
- Workers should have active and effective participation in all Welfare Boards constituted for their welfare. The unspent amount of cess collected under Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board be spent only on welfare of workers. Welfare Boards should have adequate workers representation. The functioning of the boards should be strengthened so that the workers can get registered with the board and have easy access to welfare benefits.
- The Government should direct the States to frame the rules for inclusion of waste recyclers of the solid waste management in the cities at all levels.
- Working Journalists Act should be amended to include journalists and workers from all media organisations to ensure decent wages and job security. Constitute new wage board for journalists in print, electronic and digital media to revise wages in media organisations.

INTUC AITUC HMS CITU AIUTUC TUCC SEWA AICCTU LPF UTUC

## Greetings from TUI Chemistry and Energy

The TUI Chemistry and Energy is affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions. It brings together all the unions of workers in the fields of chemistry, water, electricity, petrol, gas, coal mines, rubber, plastics and pharmaceutical industries. The TUI Chemistry and Energy expresses its solidarity with all Indian workers who will be involved in the general strike on 8 and 9 January 2019.

This two-day general strike is the continuing and escalation of the previous struggles against the policy which creates a country of unemployment and stagnancy of wages in combination with rising prices, relentless attacks against the worker's rights and unparalleled privatization policy of public sector.

The TUI expresses its particular solidarity to the 4 million workers employed in the sectors of Chemical Industry and Energy. They are doing very

well when they are fighting against the intention of the Indian government to privatize all energy industries. This privatization would only result in an increase in the price of energy for citizens and the risk would be great for the poorest of them to no longer have access to this energy. Widely, this general strike against all the neo liberal policy of Modi's government is the only way to obtain better conditions in work and life and to make capitalist system disappeared.

The struggle of Indian workers and people will be victorious because it's fair.

For the TUI Chemistry and Energy,  
Eric Sellini  
General Secretary

Joint Action Committee of  
**Tamil Nadu Electricity Board Trade Unions**  
**calls for success of All India Strike**

ON 8 th and 9 th of January 2019.



Joint Action Committee of Electricity Board TUs, organised a Seminar on December 20th 2018, at Periyar thidal. It gave a call to all power workers to take part in the strike on 8th and 9th of January 2019, at the call of 10 central trade unions and Federations.

To implement the Neo Liberal Policy; the sale of shares of the Public Limited Company and privatisation of public sector utilities are continued at a hasty manner since the year 1991. Share of PUSs by Rs 3,62,686 lakh crores have been sold at a throw away price and that to say specifically in the past five years shares to the amount of Rs. 2,09,896 lakh crores have been sold. Which infers, that the present Central Government is in a hurry mood to implement Liberal policy.

The motto of the New Economic policy is to convert the service sectors such as Electricity, Railways, Transports to a profit making sector, and to hand over to the corporates.

The Neo Liberal Policy has not spared the Electricity sector too. After independence of India, the Electricity sector was taken as an essential service for country's Industrial, Agricultural development through advanced technology. Provision was created for cheaper and subsidised electricity for people of weaker section. It is being planned to generate, and to distribute electricity by the private houses. Corporate houses think for profit

only. Socio economic value of the sector is not important to them.

Electricity generation by Private Corporates are getting priority by BJP led central government. Share of state sector in total installed capacity in the country is only 24.6% whereas private sector's share is 45.6% only 50% of the capacity is being used in generation in the country. Electricity sector is becoming a looting ground for the National and International Corporates. Thus the Central Government is going to change the policy through Electricity (Amendment) Act 2018; in favour of the Corporate. .

To restructure the Electricity sector, the Electricity act 2003, and Electricity policy 2005 are introduced. Open access to electricity has been implemented. It has changed the concept of electricity generation and distribution through the State Electricity Board.

Since the procurement of electricity from private sector is increasing and the consumer services by the private players, the area of distribution through the State Electricity Board are considerably decreased and by this way the Electricity Board turns to fleshless, bloodless; and loosing concern.

For example Tamil Nadu Electricity Board regulatory authority has given permission to Tuticorin Electricity Private Limited to supply electricity to Special Economic Zone at Nangunery in Tirunelveli District for 25 years.

Railways of Tamil Nadu Unit is trying to come out from Electricity Board to purchase electricity from private distributors. Through the open access policy 50% of HT consumers have started to purchase electricity from private companies. By this way Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has incurred loss by Rs 1500/- crores.

Above all, the central Government has placed the Electricity (amendment) Act,2018 in the parliament for

handing over distribution to the private sector. If it is enacted.

1. Using the Government infrastructure the private sector can involve in distribution of electricity. They will concentrate to high end consumers.
2. Electricity Distribution to the farmers, houses of weavers in the villages will become questionable. The private companies will fix the meter, take the reading and fix the energy meter etc, etc.
3. The distribution of electricity which has gone to the private sector in Bombay, Delhi, Orissa, has experienced heavy tariff hike.
4. Electricity to farmers, huts, weavers at free and subsidised electricity will be discontinued.
5. The subsidy amount will be deposited to the consume's Bank A/C (as done for gas subsidy). This will lead in withdrawal of fully subsidised electricity.
6. Within three years of enactment of the Law all subsidies will be stopped.
7. The Central Government itself will control the electricity sector instead of joint control of the state and centre. This is against the existing policy of the concurrent list of constitution. The protest by various states including Tamil Nadu and All India Trade Unions against the amendment have not been considered.

The consumers will be affected, Electricity Board/ Distribution company will face loss and finally electricity sector will be handed over to corporates. It is also exercised the number of the employees and the rights will be curtailed like Transport, Railways, BSNL, Oil & Gas, and Airways.

Bharathiya Janatha Party which rules at the centre has not fulfilled its promises of giving jobs to two crores for every year to and has failed miserably to control unemployment.

Instead of controlling the prices of commodities, it has increased the rate of petroleum in link with the International prices, which resulted in uncontrolable rise in price of essential commodities, and this affected the poor people to a large extent themselves.

Instead of implementing the laws of employees welfare, it is fastly trying to enact the laws against it.

In the name of changing the taxation method it has fixed taxes for all section of the society and through



the income, has helped the tax evasion of national and multinational corporate with incentives.

So all the employees of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board should come forward and participate in the strike on 8 th & 9 th of January 2019, against the Central Government's anti people and anti labour policy.

The Joint Action Committee takes oath that necessary action will be taken to make the strike a grand success.

The draft declaration was moved by comrade S.S. Subramaniyan, who is in charge of southern Region Electricity Employees Federation of India.

The draft resolution was seconded by comrades, namely V. Ramachandran of AITUC, Silendra Dubey, All India Engineers Federation, G. Sukumaran, General Secretary, Tamil Nadu CITU, M. Shanmugam, All India General Secretary of LPF, R.P.K. Murugesan, Principal Secretary of Tamil Nadu INTUC, M. Subramaniyan, HMS, A. Anthony Padavaray Deputy General Secretary, All India Federation of power Diploma Engineers, K. Arul Selvan, General Secretary, TNPEO'S. Manohar, President, Tamil Nadu Power Engineers union.

The Leaders were introduced by comrades. C. Veeraragavan, president, TNEWF, K. Sasikumar, Deputy General Secretary of TMTM, S. Rajendiran, General Secretary COTEE, T.V. Xaviour, General Secretary Electricity INTUC; V.S. Sambath Kumar, General Secretary

Engineers sangam, S. Saravanan, President, ITI union, Apparsamy, Engineers Association, K. Jeevanantham, President, Power Engineers Organization, R. Ponnabalavanan, Engineers union.

## Rajasthan government paid Rs 6,000 crore in excess to private power companies

JAIPUR: The outgoing state BJP government committed a corruption of over Rs 6000-crore in the purchase of power from two private electricity companies, the Congress alleged on Friday. The opposition party accused chief minister Vasundhara Raje of promoting cronies at the cost of state exchequer.

Randeep Singh Surjewala at a press conference in the city on Friday.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala claimed that the Raje-government paid nearly double the rate at which it had agreed to purchase power from one of the two private companies during 2013-18. Surjewala, claiming to have evidences obtained under the right to information Act, addressed a press conference here.

"The Raje-government's power purchase agreement (PPA) with Raj West Power Ltd was at Rs 2.089 per unit but it actually paid the company at the rate of Rs 4.06 per unit, which is nearly double the agreed rate. This government purchased more than 27430 million units from Raj West in 2013-18," the Congressman alleged.

He added, "The government's PPA with Adani Power Raj Ltd was at Rs 3.24 per unit but it actually paid the private company at the rate of Rs 3.66 per unit. More

than 32774 million units were bought from Adani Power in 2013-18 by this government."

Surjewala further said, "The Raje-government bought power from a third private company too. There was no PPA with this company, the Coastal Gujarat (a subsidiary of Tatas), still the government purchased power from it at Rs 2.42 per unit. The government bought over 11876 million units from this company in 2013-18."

The senior Congress leader alleged, "By paying at rates higher than the PPA, the government paid Rs 5406-cr in excess to Raj West Power Ltd and Rs 1376-cr in excess to Adani Power Raj Ltd. Thus, a total amount of Rs 6782-cr was paid in excess to the two companies."

"The previous Congress government bought maximum power from NTPC, which is a government owned company, and charges at a lesser rate. Compared to present BJP government, the previous Congress government bought over 7661 million units more from NTPC," Surjewala said.

He alleged, "There was a conspiracy to buy private power at the cost of shutting down government owned power plants. The BJP government's motto appears to be let private electricity companies make profits and let people and exchequer suffer."

### **Crony capitalism: Modi favours Adani Power**

5. However, Jharkhand's energy policy requires all power projects to supply 25% of the electricity locally. As Scroll.in has previously reported, the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Jharkhand amended the energy policy in 2016 to allow Adani to charge a higher price for electricity from this project than other thermal plants bill the state. Now, by allowing Adani to convert its power plant into an SEZ, the BJP government at the Centre has made Jharkhand's share of electricity uncertain.
6. To enable SEZ status for the Adani project, the Centre had to amend 2016 guidelines that prohibited the establishment of a standalone power project inside an SEZ. The commerce ministry moved the amendment on December 28, 2018, which the Board of Approval for SEZs cleared on January 9, 2019, after commerce minister Suresh Prabhu directed it to consider the matter, minutes of board meetings show.

# The Impact of Installation of Towers in Agricultural Land

Indian Power Generation Capacity has increased to 3,47,220 MW. India has this much of higher power Generation and the total demand of our power consumers is 1,79,571 MW only. Even then there is power cut and power shortage in many states.

The reason for this shortage is due to the insufficient power Generating Station in States, and shortages of coal, fuel, water and other things.

In India more power plants are in Northern States. But in southern area there are not much of power plants. Because of this we are unable to give uniform balanced power distribution. In this circumstances we have to expand the power transmission lines to distribute the power from the northern states to other parts. As per the data available now, we are having 75,050 MW capacity transmission lines only. So we have to expand the transmission lines. To avoid this we have to increase the power plants in States and we need a scientific plan in this regard.

In this background the Corporation is constructing the electric towers in the fields and transmission lines across the lands. Due to this the cultivatable lands are being fragmented and the cost of the fields are losing their values. When the lines are crossing the lands, so many restrictions are being imposed to cultivate. The farmers should not cultivate the trees which will grow higher. Similarly farmers can not construct cattle farms, goat farms, poultry farms there. In addition to that if there is any occurrence of repairs in well and bore well they can not repair it by using explosive. Because of this the cultivation will be affected severely.

Further due to the electric waves, possibility is there to affect the health of the people. Cancer, giddiness, vomiting, headache and infertility also can be occurred. Hence we have to plan to construct the transmission lines through other than the area of farmers' lands.

With regard to Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation

and Load Despatch Centers jointly planned to expand the transmission lines under 11 plans in 13 Districts - Coimbatore, Thirupur, Erode, Naamakal, Karoor, Dindukal, Salem, Dharmapurai, Krishnagiri, Vellore, Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram

If these transmission lines will be constructed across the farmers' lands the farmers will be affected seriously. This must be taken into consideration by the TamilNadu Government.

In India 44% power Generation has been given to Private Companies. They are distributing the power through our transmission lines across the farmers' lands. So the Government should make them to give compensation as per the market rate and not the determined rate of the Government. This must be ensured.

In addition to that wherever the towers been constructed and wherever the lines are crossing they should give monthly rent to the concern Farmers.

If more damage occurred to any farmer, the Company should give job to the legal heir of that family without any condition.

The new electric towers and transmission lines should be constructed other than the cultivation lands. And we must change the existing towers and transmission lines as multiple towers.

Instead of constructing the transmission lines in the existing form we may construct them through the underground cables. Because of this we can avoid the severe damages. During Heavy rain, cyclone, heavy winds and heavy floods. we have to spend a large amount to meet out these damages. Instead of this we can invest one time to make underground cables. This must be considered by the Government.

Similarly the Government should plan to construct more power plants spreading all over the states to avoid the expansion of construction of transmission lines.

**बीजेपी हटाओ, देश बाँचाओ**

# Focus on payment security for power cos

Sanjay.Dutta@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The quashing of the RBI's February 12 circular on stressed assets shifts focus on implementing a payment security mechanism suggested by a government panel that diagnosed the cause of stress for thermal power projects.

Industry representatives saw the Supreme Court's verdict giving lenders and stressed private power producers an opportunity to work out a way forward, ensuring continuity and value maximisation for both. But Sabyasachi Majumdar of rating agency ICRA saw it slowing down "the already tardy pace of resolution of stressed assets in the power sector". But none of these positions address the root cause — delayed payments by discoms. The power ministry's PRAAPTI portal shows discoms owing Rs 41,730 crore at the end of December 2018, the latest period for which data is available. Nearly half of this is owed to private companies.

Private power producers find themselves at the short end of the stick in the absence of a payment security mechanism. While it's cash-and-car-

ry for fuel, they are at the mercy of discoms when it comes to getting paid. PRAAPTI shows discoms taking between 544 and 580 days to clear bills.

The situation is further exacerbated by delay in adjudication and payment of claims by discoms taking 2-5 years. Besides, as the parliamentary standing committee on power's 40<sup>th</sup> report noted, there is a time lag of 12-18 months between rise in

The government on March 7 addressed issues pertaining to fuel supply and regulatory matters, which add to the stress, by approving the committee's suggestions in this regard but did not clear the recommendation for a bill discounting facility.

Under this system, sectoral lenders PFC/REC will pay power producers upfront and recover their bill from discoms

<b>UNDER STRESS</b>		
TOP POWER SECTOR DEBTORS		TOTAL DEBT (₹ CRORE)
KSK Mahanadi Power		14,165
Prayagraj Power Generation	9,883	
Damodar Valley Corp	9,756	
Adani Power Maharashtra	9,463	
Jaiprakash Power Ventures	8,719	
Coastal Energen	6,098	
D B Power	5,931	

Total debt of 75 cos under stress  
**₹2.24 lakh crore**

Source: 37<sup>th</sup> standing committee on energy (revised)

coal price and requisite tariff revision. The committee noted this affects the cash flow of private power producers. Most do not have deep pockets to withstand the shortfall and falter on instalments.

in due course, charging late payment fee in case of delayed payments. In case of payment failure by a discom, the RBI will recover the amount from the state's account to pay off the lenders.



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**Glimpses of 3rd TUI (Energy) Congress  
Trivandrum, India**