

ARAHAN HAI  
ACCHE DIN

# voice

**OF ELECTRICITY WORKERS**

Organ of Electricity Employees  
Federation of India

Oct - Dec '16 and Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun, July-Sep '17

Electricity  
(Amendment) Bill, 2014



*Moments of Electricity Employees Federation of India*  
**8TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE**



# VOICE

## OF ELECTRICITY WORKERS

OCT.-DEC'16. & JAN.-MAR, APR.-JUN., JUL.-SEP.'17

**VOL. XVII □ NO. 1, 2 & 3**

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## Cheating objects are fulfilled but not aspirations.....

India has been earmarked by the Global Society as a country of majority of hungry people. World Economic Forum met at Davos in January last has accredited our country, where un-equality is growing in fastest pace. Let us examine the contribution of our tall talker Prime Minister and his Hindu Brigade in this wretched economy of our country. Off late, we have noted in news media that our Government is going to pump money to Banks to save these financial institutions from bankruptcy. How they have arrived on the verge of bankruptcy? It has been revealed that Non Performing Assets of Indian Banks has touched the level of Rupees Ten Lakh crore. Let us write the figure numerically i.e. **Rs. 10,000,000,000,000/-**. We, the common people, are unable to estimate quantum of such huge corpus. The amount is almost equal to \$154 Billion, more clearly it is almost equivalent to GDP of 137 countries. Amount is not in its static phase. It is being escalated by the courtesy of Modi-Jaiety duo. In first year of Modi regime, bad debt of Indian Bank's in December 2014 was Rs. 2.61 Lakh crore. With elapse of two years time of **ACHHE DIN**, in December, 2016 the figure shot to Rs. 6.97 lakh crore. In March, 2017 average bad loans of public sector Banks was 70% of Indian Banking system. It stood on 75% of their net worth.

Who are the lenders? Only top 10 business groups are to repay Rs. 5 lakh crore. Do not they have ability to pay? Obviously they have. That is why Banks have earmarked them as **WILFUL DEFAULTERS**. Former Reserve Bank Governor Raghuram Rajan along with Supreme Court of India tried to insist the banks to adopt needful steps towards recovery. Rajan disagreed Demonetisation proposal of Modi-Amit-Arun trio. Necessity became expedient to replace Raghuram Rajan with **Yes-man** Urjit Patel. His Master's Voice was implemented through 60 Reserve Bank directives in 6 weeks after 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 the day of Demonetisation pressing economy of the whole country into deep coma in the name of Black Money exposure. Subsequent directives of Reserve Bank, PF and other Authorities curtailed the rights of toiling people of the country. Earlier, lender Bank used to decide whether the borrower will be accused in the bankruptcy court. Now, Reserve Bank,

the regulator has taken up the role. It directed lender banks to take 12 accounts directly to bankruptcy court. These 12 accounts are those concerns 25% of the total bad loans of the country. Object is crystal clear. Avenues created towards swallowing public money by the bosom friends of ruling party at Delhi. Barriers one after another are being created for common men to access their money in bank accounts on discrimination between rural and urban citizens, minimum balance, and number of transactions and so on. All these are to cover the shortfall of bankers from loot of friends and sycophants of Modi.

Natural resources like Coal, Gas, solar and Hydro-electric potential are recklessly transferred to private profit mongers, while public sector assets are sold at throw away prices or at no cost. What quantum of financial benefit was attempted to siphon to Adani, Ambani, Tata, Jindal is hard to be assessed. All Acts, rules, regulations are designed to cheat economically lowest level of consumers. Electricity Act, 2003 was passed to convert supply of electricity from service of socio-economic development to market driven commodity, which curbed the right of rural people for access to electricity. Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 tabled in the Parliament has proposed to split distribution business into carriage and content. If we fail to resist, it will result into cost of Electricity to sky level for the common people of the country. Avenue of profit from the revenue potential high end consumers will be kept open for the business community, while state owned Discoms will be compelled to supply left out poor domestic consumers, who are to pay high cost of supply averting cross subsidy.

We understand that, when Draft Electricity Bill, 2000 was proposed, cumulative loss of all SEBs through five decades was Rs. 26,000 crore. While Electricity Act 2003 was passed in the Parliament by Atal Behari Bajpai let NDA Government, tall talks of efficiency, competition and

reduction of cost of supply was trumpeted. Now 14 years after implementation of Electricity Act 2003, accumulated loss of all Discoms is going to touch Rupees Five lakh crores, while cost of supply to poor consumers shoot to 5 to 10 times across the country.

We have gone through the events of series of assassinations of Narendra Dhabolkar, M M Kulburgi, Govind Pansare, Gauri Lankesh due to their open thought and undaunted expression of opinion. Police cases are not solved. Assassinator are untraced. Another journalist Paranjay Guhathakurata, Editor of eminent Socio Economic journal ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY wrote in two issues of the magazine to unveil the cheating process in the sphere of Energy. How cost of coal imported by Adani escalated through deep sea sale towards sucking more money from sale of electricity generated in their Power Plants. Guhathakurata was compelled to resign. Guhathakurata wrote a book in 2014 on KG Gas Basin Scam Titled "Gas Wars: Crony Capitalism and the Ambanis". Reliance moved to Court with defamation suit and prayed the book be proscribed. The matter is still pending before the Supreme Court of India.

UDAY (UJJWAL DISCOM ASSURANCE YOJANA) did not assure the consumers cheaper electricity. It assured rapid escalation of tariff. SAUBHAGYA (SAHAJ BIJLEE HAR GHAR YOJANA) may enable electricity connection with public exchequer in the name of Modi or Deen Dayal Upadhyay but no guarantee of affordable tariff for the poor people.

Voice of Electricity Workers urges the Electricity workers, employees and engineers and their organisations to unveil the methods of cheating the people of India in the name of benefit. Workers will mobilise en mass before parliament on 9, 10 & 11 November against this fraud & Cheat government. Electricity workers must be in the front of the march.

**Observe Karl Marx Birth Bi-centenary  
& Centenary of Great October Revolution  
Throughout the year in all levels of the organisation.**

## A brief Report on 8<sup>th</sup> National Conference

The 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of EEFI, the most vibrant federation of Electricity Employees' of India, was held on and from 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 to 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 with great incitement and ended with a grand success in the historical city of Telengana, the newly formed state in our country.

The venue was at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram, situated at Bhaglingam Pally of the city. The institution was established in memory of comrade P. Sundaryya the legendary fighter of Telengana armed struggle and leading communist leader in our country. The dais of the conference was named as Murari Bose Manch and the city was named as Habibulla Nagar to pay homage to our two veteran leaders of our organisation, served EEFI as working Committee member from inception of the Federation till death.

The newly formed organisation of Electricity workers of Telengana has organised the conference keeping its tradition and status with full respect.

The administration of Telengana State Government was not at all co-operative. There are so many obstructions created by the administration as regards any campaign, pasting posters, erecting hoarding and even hanging chain flag on the roadside too. In spite of this the electricity workers have done lot with grandeur as per as possible for them considering the prevailing situation.

The other organisation in the city, workers, social workers, many individuals have extended their co-operation to make the conference a success. About 389 delegates from 22 states and 15 fraternal delegates have gathered in the city to attend the conference. They began to arrive from 17<sup>th</sup>. The arrangements for accommodation, fooding, transportation from railway station or Airport to their place of accommodation – all were well managed in spite of their lack of

previous experience of arranging a big conference. Moreover the untiring activities of volunteers to make the delegates free from inconvenience and to make the conference successful were charming and praise worthy.

The conference started on 18<sup>th</sup> right at 10 AM with flag hoisting by our President K O Habeeb amidst sky breaking slogan and melody of songs. All the leaders present placed floral tribute to martyrs.

All the delegates and distinguished guests were gathered in the hall to attend the inaugural programme at 10 AM. Com Chukka Ramaiah, great warrior of Telengana armed struggle, ex-MLC and eminent educationist welcomed the delegates and all the participants with his valued inspiring speech. He was also felicitated by EEFI leadership. The conference was formally inaugurated by Com. K K Hemlatha, President of CITU. She in her delivery strongly criticised the anti worker – anti people activities of the present Central Government, headed by Narendra Modi of BJP led by RSS. She states that this Government is very aggressively, introducing the Neo liberal policy conducted by USA, in our country which is a threat to our working people and entire society. This Government is



completely in favour of corporates and multinationals and helping them for unprecedented loot by changing the constitutional rights of working people which they have earned by struggle for long long years. Government has already changed the Labour Laws to – suppress the trade union movements. Along with attack of all corners in our life they are playing cards of communalism and divisive activities among people of India. These are making division among the people of India and creating a smooth way for establishing neo liberal policy. So it is very urgent and essential for the working people of our country to be united and engaged themselves for united struggle against this system. She also calls the EEFI and its constituents to come forward to implement the decisions adopted by the National Convention of workers held at Delhi on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. This struggle will have to be developed in such a magnitude that the Government will have to opt either to change their anti people policies or to quit.

Inaugural session was attended by all national level fraternal organisations like All India Power Engineers' Federation, All India Federation of Electricity Employees, All India Powermen's Federation and other organisation associated to National Co-ordination Committee of Electricity Employees & Engineers (NCCOEEE).

After a short break, delegate session started. This session was presided over by a presidium headed by Com. K O Habeed. Before placing of General Secretary's

report different committees were formed to conduct the conference smoothly and total timings of discussion of General Secretary's report were finalised. It was decided that conference would discuss the report in two division of session. In the first session only organisation, industry and movement would be discussed. In the second session discussion would be only on "Equal Wage for Equal Work" mainly related to workers engaged through contractors, outsource agencies.

More than 700 minutes time was allotted for the delegates for two sessions of discussion. After this the General Secretary's report was placed by our General Secretary Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury. In his delivery he stressed upon three major points covered in the report. Firstly, the anti-people policy of the Government, which debars people in general to access to Energy specifically Electricity in affordable price was vehemently criticised. All the facilities towards lower income group, farmers, rural people are being snatched away day by day.

Secondly, 50% of the installed capacity of Generation is left unutilised. The total capacity of Generation at present is 3,29,230 MW but highest demand in the country is 1,55,573 MW. Actually there is no scope for any generation higher than this peak demand. The fanfare of Modi Government about "Shining India", Economic growth of India is completely a hoax. Thirdly major portion of Power industry was under Government sector in India –

even at least 15 years back. Now private sector has been given access by the Government and Power sector has been captured by corporate sector in India at present. They have been permitted by the Government for extreme profit and thus power has become out of touch for general people of India. There are so many scams, corruption are coming out from the private entrepreneurs in Electricity field which we have to combat for the interest of our country. Again another danger is being cropped up in the field of thermal plants. Government is going to take decision for 175 GW renewable Energy for greening the grid which is a death warrant for thermal plant



as well as coal industry and employees of those areas.

Government of India's claim for UDAY scheme is nothing but a shifting of burden from Centre to State and no benefits for cost reduction has been passed on the consumers. Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 is posing threat to consumers of rural area. If the Bill is enacted and distribution business is split into carriage and content profit mongers will rush for the revenue potential urban

specific schedule for Electricity workers have been proposed in the conference for discussion. The action plan will start from submission of memorandum to Chairman of Electricity utilities on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. Subsequently submission of memorandum with demonstration to different higher authorities at the level of division, district will be resorted to next phase of action which will start through submission of memorandum to Chief Minister and Prime Minister at state capital. Mass petition will be sent to Hon'ble Chief Justice of respective



area, scope of cross subsidy will be eliminated. Rural consumer will be burdened immediately.

35 delegates from 22 states have discussed on Secretary's report according to their own experience and struggle. They all have supported the report, appreciated the detail information given in the report and deep analysis of our movements, organisations and the way to proceed further.

The conference in its second session discussed over the issue of Equal Wage for Equal Work within the ambit of Laws of the land and dictum of Supreme Court. General Secretary further clarified the subject and stressed upon the facts that fresh recruitment is being averted and more and more contractor labours are being engaged at a wage rate, which is far below than that of permanent workers. Two specific resolutions on implementation on Equal Wage for Equal Work, formulation and implementation of

High Court and Supreme Court too. If any positive response does not come from the authorities the workers have no other alternative but take the path of strike on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018. 24 delegates from different states and unions thoroughly discussed on the issue of Equal Pay for Equal Work and the detail of action plan. They expressed their experiences and movement also and whole-heartedly support the resolution Equal Pay for Equal Work and the action plan totally. After General Secretary's reply to the discussion made by delegates in two sessions, conference adopted the General Secretary's report, report of Treasurer and Audited accounts. Conference adopted 12 resolutions also. Some of them are - on communal and divisive forces, on increasing unemployment, on in favour of workers peasants alliances, on two hundred years of Karl Marx celebration, on right to Energy as a human right, on centenary of October Revolution celebration etc.

Com. Tapan Sen General Secretary of CITU attended the conference from the very beginning and greeted the conference on 20<sup>th</sup> August after having a detail reports from the delegates. He mentioned that Electricity Federation at present has become a large federation which had been formed by our late President Com. Balanandan. All over India in 22 states its affiliated unions are fighting and organising electricity workers. He also welcomed the decision of the conference on call of their nation-wide struggle to protect and achieve further the rights and interest of working class as well as Electricity at affordable price for the people of our country.

He appreciated various aspects dealt in the report and asked the delegates to use the information, packed in the report as a tool and weapon of struggle.

He stressed upon strengthening the organisational work. His advice was to go to the worker. Meet each worker. Give a deep attention to their inconveniences. Listen to them with patience, create a bridge with them and then you find your issues of struggle. He adds-

“This will make your organisation bigger and workers will have trust on your organisation”, he in his speech appreciated our decision on Delhi-dharna, (Maha Pada at Delhi) on and from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November. Whole day and night the Electricity workers will join in a massive way and they will observe one day as their own. This struggle will be an initiative to teach the Government the result of ignoring people, after sitting in the port folios of union Ministry.

The Neo-liberal economic policy persued by Modi Government very aggressively has thrown the socio-economic condition of India in a dangerous path. Moreover RSS led Central Government are committed to fulfil their Hindutwabadi communal task. This heinous activities will make our unity divided. Our struggle against Neo-liberal policy of the Government would be weaker. Unity of the worker should be maintained at any cost. We should organise our worker in a manner so that they can understand that fight against Neo-liberal policy and fight against communalism is altogether same and not two different movement. Therefore resistance against both these attacks is our historical responsibility.

In fine, he greeted the Reception Committee, untiring volunteers and workers and people of Secendrabad whose help made the conference a grand success.

The delegates of the conference greeted him also with big claps.

The conference elected Working Committee of 90 members. 25 Office Bearers were elected. Com. K O Habeeb was elected as President, Com. Swades Debroye as Working President, Com. Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury as General Secretary and S S Subramanian as Treasurer.

In the mids of the conference our Working President Swades Devroye delivered a few words as regards our organisation, movement and consciousness about new situation.

He mentioned some of our weakness in building our organisation which has to be corrected. To build up struggle on different issues our inertia, slow movement has to be changed.

We should be cationous about the new situation in India under the rule of RSS led Modi Government. Our struggle for democracy, struggle against autocracy of BJP Government and its anti people policies should be organised with a continuous effort. United struggle is very essential and our attention should be deeper and deeper in this field.

Com. K O Habeeb in his concluding Presidential speech appreciated the spirit of the comrades of Telengana and greeted them for successful completion of the conference. He also greeted leaders and members of CITU as well as people of Telengana and the organisation who came forward to make the conference successful.

Veteron EEFI leaders Com Nisha Roy, Devender Huda, M S Muwaha, B. Jayshree, Dipak Roy Chowdhury, Jiban Aich who relinquished their responsibility was felicitated on behalf of new leadership of EEFI. President K O Habeeb felicitated reception Committee through Com N. Kiran and R. Sudhabhaskar for commendable performance towards holding the conference.

Conference ended with international song sung by all of the delegates.



# **ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

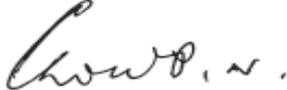
A. Government is posing to do its best to provide Electricity for all, the fact behind is the entire object of the Government to make Power sector wider play ground for the private profit mongers. Our foremost task is to unveil the game plan of the Government before the people. Electricity (Amendment)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

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

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

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

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

  
(Prasanta N Chowdhury)  
General Secretary

## Action Programme Resolved in the Conference

### Action Programme on demands of Workers in the Electricity Generation Transmission and Distribution (Contract/Casual/Outsourced/Franchised & Regular workers) as adopted

Conference had a special session on 19<sup>th</sup> August for development of Action Plan through discussion on demands of Electricity Workers engaged in Generation, Transmission and Distribution through contract / casual / outsourced / franchisee including specific demands of regular workers. During this session Resolutions on “**Implement Equal Wage and Benefits for Equal Work**” and on “**Formulation and Implementation of Specific Schedule for Electricity Workers within the Ambit of Minimum Wages Act, 1948**” were moved.

After presentation of above two resolutions, General Secretary proposed an Action Plan inviting suggestion for development of long drawn movement to achieve the goal of regularization of workers engaged in various irregular ways like casual, contract, outsourced, franchised and many other forms and means. EEFI conducted a survey throughout the country on contract / casual workers in Electricity Industry 5 years ago. State and industry wise struggle on the issue of the contractor workers in perennial nature of jobs were resorted to. A National Convention on the demands of contract workers was organized at Delhi on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2012.

It has been mentioned in the report that EEFI Working Committee from its meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2016 decided that series of campaign will be planned with the target of converting campaign into agitation towards culminating **END CONTRACTORISATION DAY ON 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2016**. All EEFI affiliates and associates submitted Memorandum to the head of utilities. As a matter of fact and coincidence that on the day next i.e 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an order in a long pending case to direct the employers as well Government to implement the “**EQUAL WAGE FOR EQUAL WORK**” as per direction of Constitution of India as well existing Labour Laws. Off course, our struggle has obtained support of Apex Court. But we also understand that employers will not easily accept this direction, as they have so long defied the conditions of

License issued within the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition Act), 1970 and rules thereof.

On the part of EEFI Centre, full Text of the 102 Page Apex Court order was collected and copy was circulated to all organisations, Office Bearers and Working Committee members of EEFI par e-mail on 29<sup>th</sup> October with guidance as follows:

“You have noted through Press News the Supreme Court Judgement Dated 26/10/2016 on Civil Appeal No. 213 of 2013 in the matter of State of Punjab & others Vs. Jagjit Singh & Others. Hon'ble Jagdish Singh Khehar, J and Hon'ble S A Bobde, J has passed a mandatory order upon the employers towards payment of Equal Pay for Equal Work to all the Casual / Contractual / Temporary workers. Equal word has been amply clarified and stressed that Equal means equal to regular employees of the employer concerned. In order to dispel the bureaucratic ambiguity Apex Court has prescribed that at least lowest Scale of Pay should be paid to all these categories of workers.

Copy of the voluminous 102 Page order is attached hereto for your perusal and submission of memorandum enclosing the copy of the order to heads of all power utilities, wherever there are contract / casual / temporary workers.

You might have noted that EEFI observed **END CONTRACTORISATION DAY ON 25th October**. Incidentally the Supreme Court Order has been issued next day. We shall have to translate in into reality. Contract System in regular job must end if the employers are to pay equal pay for all the workers.

All our organisations and their lower level units will submit the memorandum addressed to the head of the power utility through local officers. State level memorandum should be submitted by 4th November to create immense pressure to the Power Companies.”

Some of the union submitted the demand on **EQUAL WAGE FOR EQUAL WORK** on the backdrop of Supreme Court Judgment but copies have not been endorsed to

EEFI Centre. Weakness on the part of our organisations was observed. This weakness should be averted in future.

In the course of advancing the movement, EEFI organised a National Convention on EQUAL WAGE FOR EQUAL WORK at Delhi on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. On the same day, an EEFI delegation led by Com Tapan Sen, MP met Labour Secretary, Government of India and handed over a memorandum addressed to Labour Minister along with a copy of the adopted Resolution. Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) has started conciliation upon the dispute. First meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May in his office chamber. All Central sector Power Utilities has been asked to submit detailed report on compliance by CPSUs, status of Contract workers with List of Contractors, Nos. of workers engaged by them with nature and category of jobs assigned to them, Rate of wages and benefits for the contract workers and Nos. of regular Workers of each and every establishments of the Central Power Utilities. The next conciliation meeting was decided after one month but not yet scheduled. We have sent reminder.

General Secretary explained the importance of documentation on struggle of the workers. The struggle has various forms. When the workers are organizing rally the strength of the mobilization is important. But after submission of memorandum to appropriate authority, copies of the memorandum are to be transmitted to the higher levels of the organization, so that the State and National body of the organization may put forward the demand to all constitutional authorities to impress upon them the gravity of the situation. Capitalist media do not focus on the fomentation and grievance of the workers. Hence, presentation of documents is very much essential. On completion of different phases of struggle sometimes, we may seek intervention of National and International Authorities looking into the interest of the workers. All these intervention, besides legal struggle require documents. Hence, documentation is very much important. The action plan proposed has emphasized transmission of documents up to EEFI National Centre.

After presentation of the General Secretary, 24 delegates took part in the discussion and affirmed their determination to go ahead on the path of struggle. Decision arrived upon :

1. Draft memorandum will be prepared by EEFI Centre. Besides the common demands of Contract/Casual/Outsourced/Franchised workers, vital issues

related to regular workers of the utility concerned should be included in the memorandum.

2. National Demand Day will be observed on **25<sup>th</sup> October 2017** all over the country through submission of Memorandum Addressed to the Chairman of the Electricity Organisation/Company/Corporation with **mobilization of workers at Sub-division level.**

Copies of Memorandum are to be sent to:

(A) Labour Department of Appropriate government at the local level.

(B) Union's State Centre

(C) EEFI, National Centre at Delhi (Signed copy should be sent by post in addition to E-mail).

3. Division level Demonstration with mobilization of Workers' on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 Memorandum to be submitted addressed to Chairman of the power sector utility.

Copies of Memorandum to be sent to:

A) Labour Department of Appropriate government at the local level.

B) Union's State Centre.

C) EEFI, Delhi (Signed copy by post in addition to E-mail).

4. District/Circle level Demonstration will be organized on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2018

copies of Memorandum to be sent to:

A) Labour Department of Appropriate government at the District level.

B) Union's State Centre

C) EEFI, National Centre at Delhi (Signed copy should be sent by post in addition to E-mail).

5. **Public Contact (Jan Sampark) with other mass organisation from February 2018**

All these Programme should be in association with other mass organization. All other National Federations of Electricity Workers and Employees will be approached for their involvement in the

movement.

**Campaign Material :**

**Circulation of Hand Bill/Poster, Banner with the Demands of Electricity workers & as well consumers. Exposing Govt's obnoxious relation with Adani - Ambani, Tata – Goenka & Private Power Sector organization. Objects of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014**

Main content will be prepared and circulated from EEFI Centre. Those are to be translated into local languages for wide circulation among peoples of all walks of life.

Mass signature campaign in support of our movement against National Energy / Electricity Policy, Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 as well opposing exploitation of Electricity workers and transfer of Energy Resources to profit monger private companies. Text of the petition addressed to Hon'ble Chief Justice of High Court and Hon'ble Chief Justice of Supreme Court will be prepared and sent by EEFI National Centre. Translation and printing in local languages should be done by the State concerned.

6. 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018  
State level Demonstration Memorandum  
Addressed to Chief Minister of the State copies to  
A) Prime Minister  
B) Labour Department of Appropriate government

at the state or central level.

C) Union's State Centre

D) EEFI, National Centre at Delhi (Signed copy should be sent by post in addition to E-mail)

7. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018 ( Sub Division/Division/State level, as decided by the Union)

**Memorandum to Prime Minister :**

Copy to Chief Minister of the State Copies of Memorandum to be sent to:

A) Labour Department of Appropriate government at the state level.

B) Union's State Centre.

C) EEFI, National Centre at Delhi (Signed copy should be sent by post in addition to E-mail).

8. 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2018 ( Sub Division/Division/State level, as decided by the Union)  
Appeal to Chief Justice of the High Court and Supreme Court through Demonstration at local level. Copies of petition signed by people and Electricity workers addressed to Chief Justice concerned will be deposited by the State / National leaders to Registrar of High Court and Supreme Court.

9. 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2018  
Notice of cease work on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 will be submitted by the unions concerned. Text will be prepared and sent from EEFI Centre.

10. **National level Cease works on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018. Review & Decision on further intensive Action**

## ELECTRICITY WORKERS PREPARED TO MAKE SUCCESS MAHA PADAV BEFORE PARLIAMENT BETWEEN 9 & 11 NOVEMBER

### 12 POINT CHARTER OF DEMANDS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ✧ Arrest Price Rise, universalize PDS            | ✧ Stop Privatisation of PSUs   |
| ✧ Contain Unemployment, Decent job for all       | ✧ Stop contract work, equal pay and benefits to all contract workers |
| ✧ Implement Labour Laws                          | ✧ No ceiling for Bonus, ESI, PF, increase gratuity                   |
| ✧ Universal social security for all              | ✧ No pro- employer amendment to labour laws                          |
| ✧ Minimum wages not less than Rs.18000pm for all | ✧ Compulsory registration of trade unions within 45 days             |
| ✧ Pension of Rs.3000pm for all                   | ✧ NO FDI in Railways, Defence and Insurance                          |

**Office Bearers Elected**

<b>President</b>	K O Habeeb
<b>Working President</b>	Swadesh Devroye
<b>General Secretary</b>	Prasanta N Chowdhury
<b>Treasurer</b>	S S Subrammanian

**Vice Presidents**

Kanchan Mukherjee  
J S Rathore  
Karjwinder Singh  
Bela Patra (F)  
D Suribabu  
Dhanalakshmi (F)  
Subhash Lamba  
B. Pradeep  
V. S. Ajith Kumar  
Nayan Jyoti Chakravarty  
Rajendran

**Secretaries**

K. Jaya Prakash  
Suma Sekhar (F)  
J S Uppal  
Naresh Kumar  
N. Kiran  
Tarun Bharadwaj  
Jiten Nandi  
Pranaya Kumar Nayak  
C/Sector  
To be Filled in

**Working Committee Members Elected**

B Jayshree	Ratan Singh Mejari	D P Sahu
Dipak Roy Chowdhury	Ajay Vashist	NTPC Korba
Jiban Aich	Ramesh Chand	S N Banerjee
M.S Muhawa	Bisambhar Singh	SK Mostak Ali
D S Hooda		Yashpal
Harbhajan Singh	Subrata Ganguly	Sans Tabraj Alam
M G Suresh Kumar	Samir Bain	K. Eswar Rao
Arindam Chatterjee	Achinta Das	V Kumarachary
Gananath Das	Sukumaran .O.A	Ch. Naga Brahmachari
Tilak Kanungo	Gopal Datt Joshi	M Balakasi
Somnath Bhattacharya	Harmohan Talukdar	Raghwinder Singh
Anirban Mukherjee	Dipak Saha	Sukhdev Singh
R. Guruvel	Raj Kumar Singh Panwar	Sunil Asatkar
V. Elango	Sandip Kumar Biswas	Sattaya Babu
K. Arulsevan	P.M. Vartak	K.K Tripathi
V. V. Vijayan	MD. Maqbool Ganai	To be filled in from
L.R. Sreekumar	K. Arasu	PGCIL HQ
K. Ajayakumar	SK Samtulla	NTPC KORBA
Kuldip Singh Khanna		LANCO, APMU

**EEFI Constitution stipulated Working Committee should have representation at least one from each affiliated unions. Those who did not nominated their member should send the name for cooption**

## ऊर्जा क्षेत्र की रक्षा और अनुबंध कर्मचारियों की सेवाएं नियमित करने को लेकर राष्ट्रव्यापी आन्दोलन की घोषणा के साथ सम्पन्न हुआ ईईएफआई का राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन : सुभाष लाम्बा

इलेक्ट्रीसिटी इम्पलाईज फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया का 8 वां राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन 18 से 20 अगस्त हाबीबूल्ला नगर, हैदराबाद में आयोजित किया गया। सम्मेलन में ऊर्जा क्षेत्र को निजीकरण की नीतियों से बचाने और बिजली सेवाओं में कार्यरत दैनिक वेतन भोगी, पार्ट टाइम, कैजुअल व अनुबंध कर्मचारियों की सेवाएं नियमित करवाने को लेकर राष्ट्रव्यापी आन्दोलन के ऐलान के साथ सफलतापूर्वक सम्पन्न हुआ। सर्वसम्मति से पारित किए गए आन्दोलन के प्रस्ताव के अनुसार अनियमित कर्मचारियों को नियमित करवाने व समान काम के लिए समान वेतन देने आदि मांगों को लेकर 25 अक्टूबर को अखिल भारतीय मांग दिवस का आयोजन किया जायेगा, जिसके तहत सब डिवीजन स्तर पर प्रदर्शन किये जायेंगे। आन्दोलन के अगले चरण में 7 दिसम्बर को डिवीजन, 10 जनवरी, 2018 को सर्कल /जिला स्तर पर प्रदर्शन किये जायेंगे। फरवरी माह में ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में लागू की जा रही निजीकरण व आऊटसोर्सिंग की नीतियों के आम उपभोक्तकों पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों की जानकारी देने के लिए सहयोगी जन संगठनों के साथ मिलकर जन सम्पर्क चलाया जाएगा। 15 मार्च को राज्य स्तर पर रैलियां / प्रदर्शन करके मुख्यमंत्रियों को ज्ञापन दिए जायेंगे। मई दिवस पर प्रदर्शन करके प्रधानमंत्री को ज्ञापन भेजे जायेंगे। प्रस्ताव के निर्णयानुसार 1 जून को प्रदर्शन करते हुए माननीय हाई कोर्ट के मुख्य न्यायाधीशों व उच्चतम न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश को मांगों को मनवाने की अपील की जायेगी। आन्दोलन के अगले चरण में 15 जून को नोटिस दिवस का आयोजन करके 1 अगस्त से कार्य बहिष्कार करने का नोटिस दिया जायेगा। इसके बाद आन्दोलन की समीक्षा करके आगामी तीखे आन्दोलन का ऐलान कर दिया जायेगा।

सम्मेलन के प्रथम सत्र 18 अगस्त को खुले अधिवेशन का उद्घाटन करते हुए सीटू की राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष कामरेड डा. के हेमलता ने सीटू की ओर से बधाई दी। उन्होंने कहा की सम्मेलन में बिजली को मानव अधिकार बनाने व अनुबंध कर्मचारियों की सेवाएं नियमित करने की मांग सही दिशा में लिया गया निर्णय है। जिसकी उन्होंने सीटू की ओर से सराहना की। कामरेड हेमलता ने कहा कि जिस समय पर आपकी कान्फ्रेंस हो रही है, उस समय पर मजदूर वर्ग के सामने गंभीर चुनौतियां हैं। महेनतकश वर्ग पर हमले बढ़ते जा रहे हैं, आर्थिक संकट जारी है। प्रधान नियोक्ता इस संकट को मजदूरों पर डालने का लगातार प्रयास कर रहे हैं। आऊटसोर्सिंग व ठेका प्रथा को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है। सरकार रणनीतिक क्षेत्र में भी निजीकरण की नीतियों को लागू कर रही है। रेलवे व प्रतिरक्षा में भी 100 प्रतिशत एफडीआई को लागू किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि मोदी सरकार द्वारा 26 रेलवे स्टेशन का निजीकरण किया जा रहा है।

कामरेड हेमलता ने कहा की आज दक्षिणपंथी ताकतें ज्यादा हमलावर हुई हैं, चौतरफा हमला किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा की नवउदारवादी आर्थिक नीतियों को तेजी से लागू करते हुए जनता के विशाल बहुमत पर और ज्यादा तकलीफें बढ़ाई जा रही हैं। सांप्रदायिक ध्रुवीकरण बढ़ रहा है, जिसकी पहचान गौरक्षा आदि निजी सेनाओं द्वारा दलितों तथा अल्पसंख्यकों पर तेजी से हमलों में हो रही है। जनता के जनतांत्रिक अधिकारों पर और ज्यादा तानाशाहीपूर्ण हमले हो रहे हैं तथा संसदीय संस्थाओं को कमजोर किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि एनडीए सरकार ने अमरीकी साम्राज्यवाद के जूनियर रणनीतिक सहयोगी की भारत की हैसियत को और पुख्ता किया जा रहा है, जिसके चलते हमारी विदेश नीति की उन्मुखता को बदला जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा की केन्द्र सरकार पूंजीपतियों के हकों में श्रम कानूनो मे संशोधन कर रही है, जिसके कारण मजदूरों के हकों पर भारी कटौती होगी। उन्होंने कहा कि मोदी सरकार की इन चुनौतियों का मुकाबला करने के लिए दस केन्द्रीय ट्रेड यूनियनों व केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के कर्मचारियों की अखिल भारतीय कर्मचारी फेडरेशनो की 8 अगस्त को तालकटोरा इनडोर स्टेडियम में राष्ट्रीय कन्वेंशन का आयोजन किया गया है। कन्वेंशन में 9,10 व 11 नवम्बर, 2017 को संसद के समक्ष तीन दिवसीय 'डेरा डालो घेरा डालो' के तहक महापड़ाव का आयोजन किया जायेगा, जिसमें प्रत्येक दिन लाखों मजदूर शिरकत करेंगे। उन्होंने कहा की पड़ाव ऐतिहासिक एवं अभूतपूर्व होगा, जिसमें बिजली कर्मचारियों को भी भारी संख्या में शामिल होने का निर्णय लेना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि इससे पहले राज्य, जिला, खंड व कारखाना स्तर पर कन्वेंशन व मीटिंग आयोजित की जायेगी। राष्ट्रीय कन्वेंशन में आये प्रतिनिधियों से अनिश्चितकालीन हड़ताल की तैयारी का आह्वान किया गया है।

अखिल भारतीय पॉवर अभियन्ता फेडरेशन के चेयरमैन शैलेन्द्र दूबे ने अपनी फेडरेशन की ओर से राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ एवं बधाई दी। उन्होंने कहा कि आज ऊर्जा क्षेत्र वोट व नोट की नीति का शिकार हो रहा है। आज 1.95 लाख मेगावाट बिजली का थर्मलों से उत्पादन किया जाता है, लेकिन थर्मलों से केवल 90 हजार मेगावाट बिजली का उत्पादन हो रहा है। 40 हजार मेगावाट बिजली का उत्पादन थर्मल कोयले व गैस न होने के कारण बन्द पड़ा है। सरकार, सरकारी क्षेत्र में बिजली उत्पादन करने के ठोस कदम उठाने की बजाय प्राइवेट पॉवर खिलाड़ियों पर अपनी निर्भरता बढ़ रही है, जो देश व उपभोक्तकों के कर्तव्य हित में नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में कुल बिजली उत्पादन क्षमता 3.30 लाख मेगावाट है और अधिकतम मांग केवल 1.58 लाख मेगावाट है, फिर भी पावर कट लग रहे हैं और तीस करोड़ लोगों के घरों में बिजली नहीं है। यह सब गलत राष्ट्रीय बिजली नीति के कारण हो रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि जब इलेक्ट्रीसिटी एक्ट -2003 के बाद राज्य बिजली बोर्डों की अनबंडलिंग की तो बोर्डों का घाटा 25 करोड़ का था, जो अब बढ़कर 9 लाख करोड़ का हो गया है। अब उदय स्कीम के तहत इस राशि का 75 प्रतिशत राज्य सरकारों के जिम्मे कर दिया है। यह राशि केन्द्र से राज्यों को मिलने वाली राशि से कटौती की जायेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि नेशनल कोर्डिनेशन कमेटी ऑफ इलेक्ट्रीसिटी इम्प्लाइज फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया को बिजली निगमों का एकीकरण करने की मांग को लेकर राष्ट्रव्यापी आन्दोलन शुरू करने की आवश्यकता है। उन्होने बताया की 18 नवम्बर को एआईपीएफई बंगलरू में एनसीसीओईई के सभी घटकों को आमंत्रित किया जा रहा है। खुले अधिवेशन की अध्यक्षता ईईएफआई के प्रधान का. के.ओ.हबीब ने की और इसको अखिल भारतीय पॉवर अभियन्ता फेडरेशन के महासचिव का. पी.रत्नाकर राव, ऑल इंडिया फेडरेशन ऑफ इलेक्ट्रीसिटी इम्प्लाइज के महासचिव कामरेड मोहन शर्मा, एलपीएफ के प्रधान कामरेड एस.रतना सभापति, ऑल इंडिया पॉवर फेडरेशन के सचिव का.के.सौमेशखेर, तेलंगाना सीटू राज्य कमेटी के प्रधान का.एस वारालक्ष्मी, महासचिव का. साईबाबू आदि ने अपने-अपने संगठनों की ओर से हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ एवं बधाई दी और संयुक्त आन्दोलन तेज करने की आवश्यकता बताया। स्वागत समिति के चेयरमैन का. सुब्बा रमैया ने अपने सम्बोधन में हेदराबाद की ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि पर प्रकाश डालते हुए उदारीकरण की नीतियों के विरोध में एकता के साथ आन्दोलन तेज करने का आह्वान किया। ईईएफआई के पूर्व नेता मुरारी बोस के नाम से मंच बनाया हुआ था। राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष कामरेड के.ओ. हबीब ने सभी बिरादाराना संगठनों के आये हुए नेताओं का धन्यवाद करते हुए खुले अधिवेशन का समापन किया।

#### विभिन्न कमेटियों का किया गठन :

सम्मेलन के बेहतर संचालन के लिए दुसरे सत्र में फेडरेशन के महासचिव पी एन चौधरी ने अध्यक्ष मंडल के लिए का. के. ओ. हबीब, का. स्वदेश देव रॉय, का. जे. एस. उप्पल, का. डी. एस. हुड्डा, का. मुख्तार सिंह मुहावा, का. कंचन मुखर्जी, का. बेला पात्रा, का. जीवन आइच, का. जयश्री बी., संचालन समिति के लिए का. प्रशानता नंदी चौधरी, का. बी. प्रदीप, का. सुभाष लाम्बा, का. हरभजन सिंह, का. वी लक्ष्मणन, का. एस. सुरेश कुमार, का. दीपक रॉय चौधरी, का. तरुण भारद्वाज, का. एस. राजेन्द्रन, का. एन किरन, का. शांति देबनाथ, का. धनलक्ष्मी, मिनटस समिति में का. अजीत कुमार कन्वीनर, का. नागा ब्रह्मचारी आन्ध्रा प्रदेश., का. मकबूल गनी जम्मू एण्ड कश्मीर, का. रमेशचंद्र हरियाणा, का. गोपालदत्त जोशी यूटी चंडीगढ़, परिचय समिति के लिए का. राजेन्द्रन कन्वीनर, का. लथीश केरला, का. दीपक रॉय चौधरी पश्चिम बंगाल एवं का. जे. एस. उप्पल पंजाब व प्रस्ताव समिति के लिए का. कंचन मुखर्जी कन्वीनर, का. जयशंकर तमिलनाडू, का. जयप्रकाश केरला, का. एन किरण तेलंगाना एवं का. नरेश कुमार को हरियाणा के नामों का प्रस्ताव प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया। जिसको प्रतिनिधियों ने सर्व सम्मिति से पारित कर दिया।

#### महासचिव की रिपोर्ट का मसौदा प्रस्तुत :

इलेक्ट्रीसिटी इम्प्लाइज फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया के महासचिव कामरेड पी.एन.चौधरी ने सचिव मंडल की ओर से सांगठनिक व आन्दोलन की रिपोर्ट का मसौदा प्रस्तुत किया। उन्होने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परिस्थिति पर कहा कि 2007-2008 से शुरू हुआ विश्वव्यापी आर्थिक संकट जारी है। नवउदारवादी नीतियों से पैदा हो रहे संकट का फायदा इन्ही नीतियों की समर्थक दक्षिणपंथी ताकतें उठा रही हैं। डोनाल्ड ट्रंप का सत्ता में आना इसका बड़ा उदाहरण है।

राष्ट्रीय परिस्थितियों पर बोलते हुए उन्होंने कहा की पिछली कान्फ्रेंस 2013 में यूपीए-2 की सरकार अपने अंतिम पड़ाव पर थी। मंहगाई, बेरोजगारी, भ्रष्टाचार के कारण डा. मनमोहन सिंह के नेतृत्व में चल रही यह सरकार जनता से पूरी तरह कट चुकी थी। नवउदारीकरण की नीतियों के लागू करने से बड़े पूंजीपतियों को लाखों-करोड़ की राहत दी जा रही थी और गरीब वर्ग पर कमखर्ची के नाम पर आर्थिक हमले हो रहे थे, जिससे आम गरीब लोगों में भारी नाराजगी थी। भाजपा ने इस परिस्थिति का भरपूर फायदा उठाया। साम्प्रदायिक आधार पर ध्रुवीकरण करने के प्रयास लगातार जारी थे। सबका साथ-सबका विकास, भ्रष्टाचार मुक्त सरकार, दो करोड़ बेरोजगारों को हर साल रोजगार देने आदि नारों पर सवार भाजपा को पहली बार लोकसभा चुनाव में साधारण बहुमत हासिल हो गया। तीन साल के अब तक के कार्यकाल में एनडीए सरकार यूपीए की नवउदारीकरण की नीतियों को तेजी से लागू कर रही है। जाति एवं धर्म के आधार पर ध्रुवीकरण करने के प्रयास तेज कर दिए हैं। इन नीतियों के खिलाफ आवाज़ बुलंद करने पर देशद्रोही करार दे दिया जाता है। देश में कृषि संकट गहराता जा रहा है। किसान लगातार आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। किसान लामबंद होकर सरकार के खिलाफ आन्दोलन तेज कर रहे हैं। महासचिव ने बिजली क्षेत्र में लागू की जा रही नीतियों पर विस्तार से प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने कहा कि बिजली संशोधन बिल-2015 के तहत उत्पादन के बाद अब वितरण व प्रसारण को भी निजी हाथों में सौंपना चाहती हैं। उन्होंने ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में काम कर रहे आऊटसोर्सिंग व अनुबंध कर्मचारियों की हालत पर विस्तृत चर्चा की। उन्होंने विगत कार्यकाल में किए गये आन्दोलन व उपलब्धियों की भी रिपोर्ट में चर्चा की। महासचिव ने अलग से अनुबंध कर्मचारियों की समस्याओं व आन्दोलन का प्रस्ताव प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया। वित्त सचिव कामरेड एस. सुब्रमण्यम ने वित्त की रिपोर्ट प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष प्रस्तुत की।

#### **महासचिव व वित्त सचिव की रिपोर्ट पर प्रतिनिधियों ने की गंभीर बहस :**

महासचिव द्वारा प्रस्तुत रिपोर्ट पर अलग-अलग संगठनों से 41 प्रतिनिधियों व अनुबंध कर्मचारियों बारे प्रस्तुत रिपोर्ट एवं आन्दोलन पर 24 प्रतिनिधियों ने बहस में हिस्सा लिया। रिपोर्ट पर बोलते हुए प्रतिभागियों ने कुछ अच्छे सुझाव दिये व कुछ ने सकारात्मक आलोचना की। महासचिव पीएन चौधरी ने बहस का जबाब दिया। जबाब देने के बाद सर्व सम्मति से आन्दोलन के प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करते हुए दोनो रिपोर्टों को तालियों की गड़गड़ाहट के साथ पारित कर दिया गया।

#### **सर्वसम्मति से 23 सदस्यीय पदाधिकारियों का किया चुनाव :**

सर्व सम्मति से हुए चुनाव में का.के.ओ.हबीब को प्रधान, का. एस. देवरॉय को कार्यकारी प्रधान, का. पी.एन.चौधरी को महासचिव व का.एस.सुब्रमण्यम को कोषाध्यक्ष दोबारा चुना गया। इसके अलावा का.सुभाष लाम्बा (हरियाणा), का. कंचन मुखर्जी (प.बंगाल), जसबीर राठौर (पंजाब), कारजविन्द्र सिंह (पंजाब), का. बेला पात्रा (प.बंगाल), का.सुरी बाबू (आंध्र प्रदेश), का. धनलक्ष्मी (तमिलनाडू), का.बी.प्रदीप (केरल), का.वी एस अजीत कुमार (केरल), नयन ज्योति चक्रवर्ती (असम) व का. राजेन्द्रन (तमिलनाडु) को उप प्रधान और का.जय प्रकाश (केरल), का. सुमाशेखर (केरल), का. जेएस उप्पल (पंजाब), नरेश कुमार (हरियाणा), का. एन. किरन (तलेगांना), का.तरूण भारद्वाज (प. बंगाल), का. जतिन नंदी (प.बंगाल) व का. प्रानया नायक (औडिसा) को सचिव चुना गया। दो पदों को रिक्त रखा गया है।

#### **54 सदस्यीय राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिणी सदस्यों का भी हुआ चुनाव**

सम्मेलन में का. डीएस हुड्डा, का. दीपक रॉय चौधरी, का. जीवन आइच, का. एमएस माहवा, का. हरभजन सिंह, का. एमजी सुरेश कुमार, का. अरिदम चटर्जी, का. ज्ञानानाथ दास, का. तिलक कानूनगो, का. सोम नाथ भटाचार्य, का. अनिर बेन मुखर्जी, का. आर गुरुवेल, का. वी एलानगो, का. के.अरूलसेवन, का. वीवी विजयन, का. एलआर श्रीकुमार, का. के.अजय कुमार, का. कुलदीप सिंह खन्ना, का. रतन सिंह मजारी, का. रमेश चन्द, का. अजय वशिष्ठ, का. विशम्बर सिंह, का. शुभराता गांगूली, का. समीर बैन, का. अचियंता दास, का. सुखमारान. ओ.ए.,का. गोपाल दत्त जौशी, का. हरमोहन तालुकदार, का. दीपक साहा, का. राजकुमार सिंह पंवार, का. संदीप कुमार विश्वास, का. पीएम वर्तक, का. मो. मकबूल गनी, का. के.आसरू, का. एसके समतूला, का. डीपी साहू, का. एसएन बनर्जी, का. एसके मोस्ताक अली, का. यशपाल, सन्स, का. तबराज आलम, का. के.असवर राव, का. वी.कुमाराचार्य, का. नाका ब्रह्मचारी, का. एम बालाकाशी, का. रघुविन्द्र सिंह, का. सुखदेव सिंह, का. सुनील असातकार व का. सत्या बाबू राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिणी सदस्य चुने गए।

**सम्मेलन में सर्व सम्मति से निम्न प्रस्ताव पारित किए गए :**

साम्प्रदायिक व विभाजनकारी ताकतों को हराओ, बढ़ती बेरोजगारी के खिलाफ, कर्मचारी व किसानों के गठबंधन के समर्थन, काल मार्क्स के 200 वीं जन्म शताब्दी के सम्मान में, समान काम के लिए समान वेतन को लागू करने, बिजली के अधिकार को मानव अधिकार बनाओ, महान अक्तूबर क्रांति को मनाने, न्यूनतम वेतन अधिनियम -1948 के अंतर्गत बिजली कर्मचारियों के लिए विशेष अनुसूचि को बनाकर लागू करने, नई नैशनल पेंशन स्कीम को रद्द करके जनवरी, 2004 के बाद लगे कर्मचारियों को पुरानी पेंशन स्कीम के तहत पेंशन देने के प्रस्ताव पारित किए गए ।

**परिचय कमेटी की रिपोर्ट :**

सम्मेलन में 19 राज्यों से 370 डेलीगेट एवं ऑब्जर्वरों ने हिस्सा लिया। जिसमें 345 डेलीगेट व 25 ऑब्जर्वर शामिल थे। 360 प्रतिभागियों ने क्रेडेंशियल फार्म भरकर दिए। जिसके अनुसार 340 पुरुष व 20 महिलाओं ने सम्मेलन में हिस्सा लिया। उम्र के हिसाब से 18 से 30 वर्ष की आयु के 7, 31 से 40 तक 58, 41 से 50 तक 125, 51-60 तक 141 व 61 वर्ष से ज्यादा उम्र के 29। शैक्षणिक योग्यता अनुसार अंडर मैट्रिक 7, मैट्रिक 24, हायर सैकेंडरी 66, आईटीआई 115, सुपरवाइजरी लाइसेंस 17, ग्रेज्यूएट 90, डिप्लोमा 36, बी टेक 9, पोस्ट ग्रेज्यूएट 26 एवं इलैक्ट्रीकल वर्कमैन परमिट 35 धारकों ने हिस्सा लिया। 225 राज्यस्तरीय पदाधिकारी, 43 वर्किंग कमेटी सदस्य, 11 कौंसिल सदस्य, 31 जिला स्तरीय, 8 सब-यूनिट स्तरीय और 34 साधारण सदस्यों ने भाग लिया। सम्मेलन में ईईएफआई के 18 पदाधिकारियों व 31 वर्किंग कमेटी सदस्यों ने भाग लिया। उत्पीड़न के मामले में प्रतिभागियों में से 11 छंटनीग्रस्त 25 निलंबित, 2 पदावनति, 85 वेतन कटौती, 25 जेल, 35 गिरफ्तारियां, 39 ट्रांसफर उत्पीड़न की कार्यवाहियां झेल चुके सदस्यों ने शिरकत की।

**का. तपन सैन ने किया सम्मेलन का समापन किया :**

सम्मेलन के समापन पर बोलते हुए सीटू के महासचिव एवं राज्यसभा सांसद कामरेड तपनसैन ने कहा है कि सम्मेलन से जाकर आपने सम्मेलन का संदेश एक-एक बिजली कर्मचारी तक ले जाना होगा। उन्होंने कहा की आपके संगठन की ताकत सदस्यता में दिखाई नहीं देता। संबंधित यूनियन / एसोसिएशन प्रति वर्ष सदस्यता व एफिलेशन फीस जमा नहीं करवा रहे हैं। इसे नियमित करने की जरूरत है। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारे कर्मचारी जिस सरकार के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ते हैं, उसी सरकार को सत्ता में लाने का काम करते हैं। यह सब हमारी राजनीतिक चेतना विकसित न करने के कारण हो रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि जब तक हम 1.70 लाख अपने सदस्यों को सम्मेलन की रिपोर्ट की जानकारी नहीं देंगे, तब तक स्थिति नहीं बदल सकती। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारी ताकत व आन्दोलन को कमजोर करने के लिए जाति एवं धर्म के नाम पर एकता तोड़ने की साजिश चल रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारे पास बिजली उत्पादन की क्षमता होने के बावजूद 30 करोड़ लोगों के पास बिजली नहीं है, इससे पता चलता है कि हमारा देश किस तरफ जा रहा है। इसकी जड़ बिजली कानून -2003 है, जो कांग्रेस व भाजपा ने मिलकर पास किया था। इसको रद्द करने की बजाय बिजली संशोधन बिल-2015 लाया जा रहा है, जिससे संकट और बढ़ेगा। बिजली व ट्रांसपोर्ट सेक्टर में भी मुनाफा कमाने की सोच होगी तो अर्थव्यवस्था चलेगी, संभव नहीं लगता। उन्होंने कहा कि सारी दुनिया में मजदूरों पर हमले बढ़ रहे हैं, लेकिन इसके बावजूद मोदी जैसे लोग सत्तासीन हो रहे हैं, सब हमारी कमी है। हम नारे लगाते हैं कि मोदी नहीं चलेगा, लेकिन यह नहीं बताते कि चलेगा क्या? उन्होंने कहा कि राजनीति व नीति को एक साथ एक्सपोज करने का निर्णय सीटू ने किया है। उन्होंने कहा कि कौन क्या खायेगा, क्या पीयेगा, इसको मुद्दा बनाकर हमले किये जा रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा की शोषण व्यवस्था को बदलने के लिए हथियार हमारे पास हैं, तैयारी करने की आवश्यकता है। का. सैन ने बिजली क्षेत्र को बचाने व समान काम के लिए समान वेतन देने के निर्णय को लागू करवाने व अनियमित कर्मचारियों को नियमित करने के लिए व्यापक एकता के साथ राष्ट्रव्यापी आन्दोलन तेज करने का आह्वान किया। नव निर्वाचित अध्यक्ष का. के. ओ. हबीब ने तेलंगाना राज्य कमेटी व सीटू राज्य कमेटी के साथियों का सफल सम्मेलन करवाने के लिए धन्यवाद करते हुए सम्मेलन का अंतराष्ट्रीय क्रांतिकारी गीत के साथ समापन किया।

## Working class and the Great October Revolution

K Hemalata

The centenary of the Great October Revolution is being celebrated by the working class all over the world during the last one year. The 15<sup>th</sup> conference of CITU decided to observe the centenary of the Great October Revolution by focusing on the ideological development of its cadres. Many classes, conventions, meetings, seminars etc. have been conducted all over the country by the state committees and affiliated unions of CITU as per this decision. In addition many other organisations of different sectors of the working class – of insurance, bank, telecom, state and central government departments, etc. have organised various programmes to commemorate the occasion. The Left parties too observed the centenary all over the country.

The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) representing 92 million workers in 126 countries in all the continents has observed the centenary through various programmes across the world. The WFTU leadership will be participating in the concluding event being organised by the Communist Party of Russian Federation in Moscow.

The Great October Revolution was an event that took place in Russia a hundred years ago. It led to the establishment of socialism in an industrially backward country like Russia. What is its significance that despite the reverses and setbacks to socialism in Russia as well as in the east European countries, the working class across the world continues to be inspired by it?

The October Revolution was an event that literally 'shook the world', as the American socialist and journalist John Reed wrote in his eye witness account, 'Ten Days that Shook the World'. It sounded the death knell of imperialism. The workers, peasants and other sections of toiling people tore apart the old exploitative structure of capitalism and erected the framework for a new exploitation free society, a socialist society. It showed the future path for the development of humanity. It was a shining example of 'concrete analysis of concrete conditions' and masterly application of Marxist principles

to change society, by the Bolshevik party, the party of the working class.

What the Revolution has achieved was unprecedented and unimaginable at that time. It was a wonder. Even the so called 'welfare states' in Europe after the Second World War could not equal the rights and benefits achieved by the working class – land distribution, workers' control over factories, the right to recall elected representatives, free education and health for all, free nurseries, communal kitchens and laundries to liberate women from the back breaking domestic work. The comment of the Czech communist Fuchs 'All our tomorrows had become today' aptly describes the dramatic changes achieved by the revolutionaries.

The impact of the October Revolution on the national liberation movements across the world, the role of Soviet Union in defeating Nazi Germany in the Second World War, the immense sacrifices made the Soviet people in saving the world from the clutches of Hitler's fascism are well known. Socialist Russia extended unconditional help and support in developing the technological and industrial base in our country through the establishment of various public sector units, the establishment of premier institutions for engineering education and in the development of a self reliant economy after our independence.

What lessons can the working class of India learn from the experiences of the working class of Russia, which led a successful revolution that changed the world?

The conditions of the working class and their trade unions in Russia before the Revolution were not better than that of the working class in our country today. They were far worse. Though the labour movement in Russia began with the development of capitalism in the country and the first strike was held sometime between 1870 and 1880, it was not until 1905 that unions were organised. Trade unions soon expanded their influence. But repression on the unions and police persecution increased since 1907. The union committee members faced constant

## CONCURRENT ISSUE

threat of arrest by the police. The police confiscated their funds and registers. The leaders including the presidents and secretaries of the unions were deported to Siberia. Czarism made it impossible for the unions to conduct their day to day activities and organise struggles on even the economic demands of the workers. Matters became worse with the declaration of war in 1914. War was used to further suppress the trade unions. The extent of repression can be understood from the fact that while around 200,000 workers were organised in trade unions in 1905, on the eve of the Revolution in 1917 there were only three unions with a total membership of 1500.

But despite this rudimentary state of the trade unions, the working class and other sections of toiling masses carried on their economic struggles with great tenacity. The working class gained its class consciousness through such struggles under conditions of severe czarist repression.

The war devastated the country. Conditions of the workers worsened. Food became scarce. Soldiers were forced to fight in the freezing cold without proper clothes or equipment. Discontent was growing among all these sections.

It was in such conditions that the women workers of Petrograd observed International Women's Day, for the first time on a working day on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1917 (8<sup>th</sup> March as per the new calendar), by striking work. The women workers of the textile factory came out and marched on the streets calling out the workers of different factories on the way to join them. Hundreds of thousands of workers, men and women, joined the procession demanding bread and end to war. They demanded an end to monarchy. The military arrested hundreds of their leaders. Over hundred people were killed on the day. Unhappy with the terror let loose on the people large section of the army joined the revolutionaries. This February Revolution forced Czar Nicholas II to abdicate.

The overthrow of czarism unleashed the creative and organising initiatives of the working masses. The workers organised into the Soviets of Workers' Deputies. These were councils of workers. In fact the first Soviet was established in Ivanovna - Voznesensk during a strike of textile workers in 1905, as a strike committee. Later it developed into an elected body of the town's workers. This was followed by the establishment of Soviets of

Workers' Deputies in around 50 towns but these were crushed soon. The leaders were arrested and imprisoned. Soviets of Workers' Deputies and Soviets of Soldiers Deputies, who were from the peasant families and represented the peasants were formed and became active after the February Revolution. 1090 delegates representing more than 400 different Soviets participated in the first congress of the Soviets held in June 1917. By the time of the October Revolution there were over 900 Soviets. Majority of these including those in Petrograd and Moscow were controlled by the Bolsheviks. The Soviets of Workers' Deputies were instruments of political struggle for the working class of Russia.

The Bolsheviks did not have majority among the Soviets from the beginning. They were in a minority till July 1917. But the tactics adopted by them under the leadership of Lenin helped them capture majority of the Soviets by October.

Lenin emphasised the need to win over majority of the Soviets by clearing the illusions that they had on the provincial government, by exposing the government through patient, systematic and persistent explanation. He stressed on the need to teach them the necessity of transferring the entire state power to the Soviets. This was an important task set before the Bolsheviks. He also laid lot of emphasis on organisation. He said 'To achieve such a victory (victory over capitalists), to have the workers and poor peasants take power, keep that power and make proper use of it, you will need organisation, organisation and organisation... Don't put your trust in words. Don't be misled by promises. Don't overestimate your strength. Organise at every factory, in every regiment and every company, in every residential block. Work at your organising every day, every hour; do that work yourselves, for this is something you cannot entrust to anybody else. Work to steadily, soundly and indestructibly build up full confidence in the advanced workers, on the part of the masses... Such is the one guarantee of success'.

Lenin taught the working class about the importance of forging unity with the peasantry. Addressing the All Russian Trade Union conference he urged the workers to take the initiative to organise the agricultural workers and win over the majority of people to their side. 'The first commandment of any trade union movement is not to

rely on the State but to rely on the strength of one's own class. The transfer of power to the revolutionary, oppressed class is the only way out of the present crisis, and the only remedy for economic dislocation and the war', he said.

These words of Lenin are as relevant now, when the working class is being attacked by the capitalist class trying to protect their profits in the wake of the systemic crisis of capitalism, as they were around a hundred years ago.

Today major sections of the working class in our country are under the influence of the ideology of the ruling classes. The ruling classes are attacking the lives, livelihoods, working conditions and basic rights of all sections of the toiling people – the workers, agricultural workers, peasants, artisans etc. through the neoliberal regime. These policies are meant to transfer public wealth into the hands of a few big private corporations. At the same time they are able to create illusions among the people through their false promises and slogans though people are slowly getting disillusioned. They are trying to weaken and thwart united struggles of the working people by evoking communal passions, caste feelings, and regional sentiments.

Bringing the working class and the toiling people from the influence of the ruling classes requires 'patient, systematic and persistent explanation and teaching' as

Lenin taught us. Ten Days that Shook the World says that during the Revolution 'All Russia was learning to read and reading – politics, economics, history – because the people wanted to know... Hundreds of thousands of pamphlets were distributed by thousands of organisations and poured into the armies, the villages, factories, the streets.' People absorbed them like hot sand drinks water! These 'were not fables, falsified history, diluted religion, and the cheap fiction that corrupts but social and economic theories, philosophy, the works of Tolstoy, Gogol and Gorky...'

Today we need to create such urge among the working class and the toiling people to know, to understand the truth about the link between their day to day issues and the policies being pursued by the ruling classes, whatever sweet and attractive slogans they mouth. At the same time we have to make serious efforts to satisfy that urge to know and understand the truth by exposing the politics behind the policies through their own experiences; using the language that they can easily understand. We have to develop the class consciousness of the working class to realise its historic role in ending the inhuman capitalist exploitation and replacing with an exploitation free socialist system. We have to prepare it to discharge this role.

The Great October Revolution teaches us that this is the only way to end the exploitative capitalist system.

## National Energy Policy

### Seeing the perils, still treading the disastrous path

B. Pradeep

NITI Aayog, the new avatar replacing the erstwhile Planning Commission, has come up with the draft National Energy Policy inviting comments from stakeholders. The best part of the document is that finally there is some realisation at the policy making level that, after more than two decades of perilous journey with neo-liberal agenda the country's energy sector is in shambles. However, the worst part of it is that it prescribes the same path for the road to recovery!

#### **Energy Poverty of the masses**

The document has accepted in unequivocal terms that the prestigious Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Vidyutheekaran Yojana (DDUGVY) of NDA government has failed miserably in achieving its declared target of universal electrification by 2018. While Prime Minister Modi, in his usual rhetoric has now announced one more gimmick by renaming it as "Saubhagya" with a meager fund allocation of Rs 12,320 Cr against a mammoth target of covering more than 3 crore unconnected households before the next general election, the NITI Aayog appears

to be more realistic. The NITI Aayog estimates that the target of universal electrification can be achieved by 2022 only. Vast majority of Indian population is reeling under severe energy poverty with the country's per capita electricity consumption still around 1000 units only, which is only half of world average. As per estimates of NITI Aayog, 30.4 Crore citizens of the country does not have access to electricity today.

### **The challenge**

The darkness surrounding the lives of our fellow citizens even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a matter of immense shame and grave concern. Universal access to modern forms of energy, especially electricity, is fundamental to ensuring a decent living to humankind. With the development of science and technology, the gradual shift from various primary forms of energy to the modern form of energy viz electricity, in every sphere of life is visible. The draft policy endorses this fact and showcase electricity as a clean cooking fuel which shall replace cow dung, biomass, kerosene and even LPG. Studies has established the strong correlation between per capita electricity consumption and the universally accepted indicator for human development, the Human Development Index (HDI). The per capita electricity consumption required to achieve a fair HDI for a country is estimated to be about 5000 units.

India has a long way to go to achieve these levels. The country has to enhance its annual electricity generation to a level of about 7957 Twh (79,57,000 MUs) with an installed capacity of around 1344 GW (13,44,000 MW) to achieve the above target of per capita consumption. At the current pace of development it appears that India could achieve a per capita electricity consumption level of 5000 units by the year 2052 only.

### **Developing domestic energy resources**

When coming to questions of energy security, the draft policy underscores the role of Nuclear power to ensure a secure energy future. The country has proven Natural Uranium reserves to the tune of 61,000 Tonnes which can sustain a generation capacity of 32,800 MW through Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) technology. At the same time, with fast breeder reactor (FBR) technology the same quantum of reserves can sustain a

huge capacity of 4,22,310 MW. FBR comprises the second stage of the 3 stage Nuclear cycle indigenously evolved by Indian scientists. On commercial operation of the AHWRs the abundant Thorium reserves of the country assessed at 2,25,000 Tonnes could sustain an electricity generation capacity of 15,55,200 MW.

Despite the huge potential, the policy targets a modest capacity of 63,000 MW of Nuclear capacity by 2030. At the same time, it needs to be acknowledged that the target seeks a ten fold increase in the country's nuclear capacity. The document realises the failure of the much debated Indo-US nuclear accord and is not emphasising on the LWR route it provided for. Rather, it is pinning its hopes in the PHWR and FBR route to enhance the nuclear capacity of the country.

Rough estimates of hydro potential of the country is pegged at 1,50,000 MW out of which only 39,000 MW is tapped so far. The policy calls for reorienting hydro power strategy for course correction. It suggests redefining project life for hydro plants as 60 years instead of present 35 years, which can help in bringing down tariffs significantly.

Despite the rhetoric of Modi regime on renewable energy, the policy acknowledges the cardinal role of coal in providing affordable electric power to Indian economy. India has abundant resources of coal which is currently pegged at 293 Billion Tonnes out of which 118 Billion is proven. While the estimated reserves of coal can sustain an installed capacity of around 14,67,000 MW, the proven reserves can sustain a capacity of about 5,90,000 MW. The conventional hydro carbon reserves comprising crude oil and natural gas reserves is estimated as 2090 Billion Cubic Meter. The proven reserve of 1330 BCM natural gas can sustain a generation capacity of 67,000 MW. The proven reserves comprises only a small percentage of the probable reserves held by the country. Out of 3.17 Million Sq. Meters of sedimentary area only 19% has been explored so far. This is the case for shale gas formations also. As per current estimates, with majority of the sedimentary basins still remaining unexplored, India has a potential of 584 TCF of shale gas (in the explored basins) out of which 96 TCF is in the recoverable category based on current availability of technology.

The neo-liberal policies of last two decades has resulted in handing over of sizable portion of these resources to profit mongering private corporates who are holding on to the resources instead of taping the same for productive use, on expectations of better market driven prices in future. Unfortunately, the draft National Energy Policy is playing to the tunes of these anti-national forces. The draft policy advocate for market determined pricing for coal along with allowing commercial exploitation of coal fields by the private sector. It also advocate for releasing data on country's geological reserves of oil and gas to private sector for commercial exploitation. It also calls for separate regulators for coal and oil/gas sector, to provide comfort to private capital. It is clear from earlier experiences that the country will witness further increase in electricity prices once the price of primary fuels are left to be determined by market.

#### **Renewable Energy – At last seeing the light**

After going full blast on renewable energy for several years, the policy is slowly awakening to the perils of depending too much on the intermittent forms of renewable, namely solar and wind. It also recognises the hidden costs that the power system bears while accommodating such intermittent sources, which is currently socialised. Thus, the policy suggests gradual withdrawal of must run status and starting levy of transmission costs for renewable energy, as for any other source. It calls for including the costs for balancing the intermittency, like different forms of energy storage, into the prices of renewable energy. It suggests contracting RE power along with balancing power, considering the combined costs. The policy also advocates for establishing renewable energy management centers at state level. The present promotion of renewable power on the basis of legally enforced targets for renewable power purchase is to be done away after 2022.

On fighting climate change, the policy recognises the role of big hydro plants and nuclear power plants which are indisputably renewable forms of energy.

#### **Placing market and private sector at the center of development**

The draft National Energy Policy has stated in clear terms that in future the Central Government will only play a complimentary role to the efforts of private sector. The

draft policy envisages that decisions of the private sector will be driven by market forces alone. It seeks to rejuvenate the halted reforms in power sector, which includes the disastrous proposal of separating distribution and supply (seperation of wires and content) as contained in the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2014.

The draft policy relies on the market to determine price for all forms of energy including coal, gas, renewable energy and electricity. It wants the price of electricity to be made uniform across all sections of consumers. The present practice of cross subsidy will be phased out and the burden of subsidy shall be fully transferred to the state governments. The subsidy shall be provided to beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer (DBT) by the state government. The draft policy expects the market to take care of the development of renewable energy sector also.

#### **Developing struggles only way to ensure energy for all**

To improve the access, availability and affordability of Electric Power in the country, the reversal of current set of neo-liberal policies and evolution of an energy policy having a strong belief in our public sector institutions is required. What is required is a National energy policy that focus on effective taping of the domestic natural resources including coal, oil, gas, hydro, thorium, solar, wind and all forms of renewables through the strong public sector institutions created by Independent India. As witnessed in Kerala, an alternate policy relying on the strengths of its integrated state power utility, the Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd., which in association with the strong local self governments could ensure universal access and availability of affordable electric power to all households, within less than an year of assuming office by the left government in the state.

It is futile to expect that the ruling class led by the corporate India will allow such a development course for the country. On the contrary, the ruling class is looking at more and more opportunities for exploiting the natural resources for satisfying their greed. But every citizen in the country has a right on these natural resources to meet their basic necessities in an affordable manner. Thus, the time is ripe to develop struggles to reverse the current policy regime of neo-liberal reforms.

**REPORT FROM WEST BENGAL****WBSE WORKMEN'S UNION CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE**

To celebrate Golden Jubilee year (1967-2017) of West Bengal State Electricity Workmen's Union, a year long programme of sports and cultural competition amongst direct and indirect electricity workers was organised throughout the state. After district level competitions, the final of sports events was held at township play ground of Kolaghat Thermal Power Station and that of cultural events at Bidyut Bhavan Auditorium, Salt Lake.

On 23rd September, 2017 the completion ceremony of Golden Jubilee year was held at Ramendra Nath Chowdhury Auditorium of Bidyut Bhavan at Salt Lake, Kolkata. The successful competitors of sports and cultural events as well as the successful candidates of Secondary and Higher Secondary level examination, who secured sixty percent and above marks, were felicitated with Books, mementos and certificates.

A book excising brief history of fifty years struggle under the leadership of the union was formally opened by Comrade Tapan Sen, All India General Secretary of CITU.

The completion ceremony started with welcome address of Com. Jiten Nandi, General Secretary of the Union. The main speaker of the ceremony Com. Tapan Sen congratulate the union for taking such popular

programme which is very effective to reach all section of electricity workers and in this context, he reiterated the decision of CITU, All India Conference, that we have to reach those workers whom we are not able to reach till now. He strongly criticized the Central Government for its endeavour to privatized Electricity Industry through amendment of Electricity Act. He condemn the Modi Government for its antipeople act of De-monitisation, hasty introduction of GST and anti worker amendments of Labour Laws. He appealed to the electricity workers for organising movement demanding "Same wages for same kind of Work" and also for joining the mass rally and dharna at New Delhi on and from 9th to 11th November, 2017 at the call of the Central Trade Unions and All India Federations.

The special Guest of the celebration, Dr. Santipada Gon Chowdhury, Specialist in Renewable Energy Sector in his speech mainly explained the importance and necessity of Renewable Energy, specially Solar energy.

Sri Sujoy Sarkar, Director(HR), WBSEDCL and Sri Hironmoy Hazra, Ex-General Manager(HR&A) of the Company took part in the function to congratulate the Union for such endeavor. The President of the union Comrade Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury presided over the ceremony.

**ACTIVITIES OF CES WORKMEN'S UNION**

In this period an aggressive attitude of management (with mutual partner SKU), protest letters to management, brutal attack, vindictive attitude towards CITU members. In this situation we organized and fight out in favor of members. Letters that has given to the management -

- Against operational changes of system control.
- Against operational changes of mains, commercial clerical and MI'S.
- Against disbursement of 20 cores of agreement.
- Central Committee meeting held two times.
- Secretariat meeting held one time.
- Union struggle fund created from CCM & extended to the members.
- Membership collection from members.
- Sale of progressive literature of Sramik Andolan, voices etc.
- Cultural Programme performed at Mahajati Sadan on 12/9/17, almost all our colleagues and their family members participated in it.
- Participated in Blood Donation Camp on 25/8/17 organized by Kolkata dist. C.I.T.U.

**PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAMME:**

- 3/8/17 - to convey our solidarity towards tea garden's labor.
- 8/8/17 - to attend EEFI convention at Tal Kotra stadium (delhi).
- 13/8/17 - Rally to police HQ opposing democracy violation,
- 15/8/17 - "HUMAN CHAIN".
- Peace March on 1st September
- Collection of flood Relief Fund.
- Workers Meet of WFTU leadership at University Institute Hall on 10/10/17.

**INDUSTRY :**

Rapid technological changes is going on due to the drastic downsizing of man power, both regular and contractor. Company has taken decision to dismantle CESC LTD. Into FOUR (4) PARTS (Wealth and Property of CESC LTD.) Has transferred to RPG- SANJIB GOENKA GROUP. Profit growth is huge.

## NEWS FROM KARNATAKA

**2nd State Conference of Karnataka State Electricity Workers Federation** took place on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at Bangaluru. On 19<sup>th</sup> the open session took place with participation of huge number of workers gathered from different parts of the state. The mass rally focussed major eight demands of the workers. Itemwise demands were



1) Equal pay for equal work. 2) Suitable contract workers must be considered before all direct recruitment. 3) Regularise all contract workers working in the Energy Department with priority 4) Minimum wage to all contract workers to the tune of Rs.21000/ per month.5) Stop anti labour policies of the government. 6) Provide PF,ESI and issue identity card with signature of authorised official of principal employer 7) Ensure work place safety & Provide maximum compensation to the accident victim. 8) Provide Bonus to all the workers. Com Prasanta N Chowdhury , General Secretary, EEFI Com. Ajith Kumar EEFI Working Committee member from KSEBWA, Com. S. Varalakshmi, State President CITU Com.VJK Nair Vice President CITU addressed the open session of the Conference.

The delegate session of the conference was addressed by Com.K.O.Habeeb President of Electricity Employees Federation of India on 20<sup>th</sup> July. In his address he referred to dismal power situation of the country due to policy of the government. 30 crores of Indian citizens don't have access to electricity, while around 50% of installed generating capacity kept idle. 200 delegates representing 25000 contract workers working in the electricity industry from 25 districts participated in the

delegate session of the conference. 25 delegates took part in the discussion. Conference adopted the report presented for discussion unanimously. Conference elected Com.Sathya Babu as President, S M Shivakumar as General Secretary and Com.J Suresh Babu as Treasurer with 14 office bearers & 30 state committee members. The conference took resolution to intensify the struggle against wide scale exploitation of contract workers of the electricity industry. Massive demonstration & day long hunger strike will be organised in front of all major offices of all DISCOMs & power corporations all over the state.

#### Implementation of decision of the conference

**Karnataka State Electricity Workers Federation** conducted 24 hours hunger strike in front of Corporate Office Chamundeshwary Electrical Supply Company Mysore on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2017 under leadership of Com. Shivakumar Secretary KSEWF, Gulbarga Electricity Supply comany Gulbarga and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company under the leadeship of Com. Sathya Babu President (KSEWF) & under the leadership of Com. Varalakshmi President of CITU Karnataka State. Before going to hunger strike Federation submitted appeal to all 223 MLA of the state with 7 demands and also conducted card campaign struggle on 9/8/2017. The struggle is land mark in the struggle of electricity contract workers, with broad support of EEFI.

Contract workers of Energy department at Karnataka under the banner of Karnataka State Electricity Workers Fedaration (KSEWF), CITU conducted 24 hour hunger strike on 31/8/2017 at the corporate Office of



## STATE NEWS

Chamundeswari Electrical power supply company (CHESCOM). The hunger strike inaugurated by Shivakumar S.M. General Secretary KSEWF, Vice President Suresh presided the meeting 300 contract workers participated in the hunger strike. Same day hunger strike held in front of Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Bangalore under the leadership of Com. Varalakshmi. 500 contract workers participated in the strike. Same time hunger strike held in front of corporate office of Gulbarga Electricity Power Supply Co. (GESCOM) under the leadership of Com. Sathya Babu President of our union, nearly 400 contract workers participated in the hunger strike. The Managing Director of the company received the appeal from the workers. On 4/9/2017 another 24 hour hunger strike held in front of Corporate office of Mangalore Electricity Power Supply



Participants of open Conference

Co. at Mangalore under the leadership of Shivakumar with same demands, nearly 500 contract workers attended the hunger strike, on same day hunger strike held in front of Corporate office Hubballi Electrical Power Supply Co. at Hubballi under the leadership of J. Sathya Babu. In total the hunger strike was total success. Before going to hunger strike workers wrote letter to Chief Minister, Power Minister to full fill the demands. Appeal was given to 100 MLA Out of 223. These struggle were conducted as a part of decisions taken by the 2nd State Electricity conference held on 19/7/2017 and 20/7/2017 at Bangalore. EEFI also support our struggle, from EEFI wrote letter to State Power as well as Labor Minister. Nearly 2000 workers participated in the successful programme. The Management was forced to convene a meeting.



Demostration of Electricity Workers

## NCCOEEE Meeting & Southern Regional Convention at Bangaluru on 18th November, 2017

### NCCOEEE National Chapter Meeting

Meeting of NCCOEEE National Chapter we take place at 1.30 PM on 18th November, 2017

Venue : KEB Engineers Association Building  
28, Race Course Road, A R Circle  
Bangaluru

Formal Notice has been issued to all the constituent organisations on 20th October, 2017. All members of NCCOEEE National Chapter are requested to attend the meeting.

### Southern Regional Convention

NCCOEEE Southern Regional Convention we take place at 3 PM on 18th November, 2017.

Venue : KEB Engineers Association Building Auditorium  
28, Race Course Road, A R Circle  
Bangaluru

Forefront leaders of all the NCCOEEE Constituent Organisation of all Southern states are requested to take part in the convention. Members of the Constituent Organisations of Karnataka (from Bangaluru & adjacent area) are requested to take part in the convention.

National Demand Day observed on 25th October, 2017

8th conference of EEFI resolved to develop year long programme on the burning issues & rights of the Electricity workers highlighting **EQUAL WAGE FOR EQUAL WORK ,END OF CONTRACTORISATION THROUGH ABSORPTION IN REGULAR POSTS, LAWFULL WAGE SETTLEMENT.**

Action programme initiated on 25th October, 2017 with submission of memorandum addressed to respective heads of power utilities with charter of demands to lowest level

establishments all over the country. Reports from all the states are yet to arrive. West Bengal had over 120 demonstrations with participation of thousands of workers under leadership of Paschim Bangya Bidyut Shilpa Sahayak Karmi Union & WBSE Workmen's Union. Unions of regular & contract workers of CESC submitted memorandum. Hundreds of workers of All Haryana Power Corporation Workers Union submitted memorandum with massive demonstration all over the state. Karnatak & J&K Union also organised demonstration in different places.



Jammu and Kashmir Coordination Committee of Trade Unions (JKCCU) holding protest at Srinagar on Wednesday. —Excelsior/Shakeel



**Casual labourers stage protest, seek regularization**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*  
 SRINAGAR, Oct 25: Scores of casual labourers today staged a protest and sought regularization of services.  
 The casual labourers assembled at press enclave in Lal Chowk and resorted to massive sloganeering against the Government. They were also raising slogans in favour of their regularization demand. The casual labourers were from many Government departments and were protesting under the banner of Jammu and Kashmir Coordination Committee of Trade Unions.  
 Peremptorily, the State Cabinet which met two days ago under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti accepted the report of the high level committee headed by the Chief Secretary laying out a roadmap for absorption/regularization of Casual/Seasonal Labourers' Daily Rates Workers so as to ensure sustainable livelihood to thousands of persons and engagements which were made from time to time.  
 The Cabinet also asked the Finance Department to workout concrete measures to operationalize the roadmap to meet the long-standing demand of such engaged persons.  
 \* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

## WFTU-TUIs Annual Consultation Meeting Kolkata, India 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> October, 2017

Deliberation of Prasanta N Chowdhury, Vice-President, TUI (Energy)

### **Dear Comrades of Presidium, Com Mavrikos and Members of WFTU Presidential Council, leaders of TUIs and Friends,**

I convey my hearty greetings to all of you on behalf of TUI (Energy). TUI (Energy) is a sectoral organisation of WFTU representing Trade Unions of Coal, Electricity, Oil, Gas & all other forms of Energy. Our President and General Secretary could not attend this important annual consultation meeting of WFTU and its sectoral organisations all over the world. Hence, myself, being the Vice-President from (India) Asia-Pacific Region, is attending this meeting.

TUI (Energy) has completed a decade of its existence since its newly structured formation from its 1<sup>st</sup> Global Congress held in Mexico. 5 years thereafter 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress took place in Caracas of Venezuela. I must have to modestly confess that we have not been able to achieve commendable progress but a little bit co-ordinating relation in some of the countries of most of the continents. We planned to develop sub-continent wise relation but we have not been advanced to a considerable extent in all the countries of the sub-continent where we exist. In that sense, we have far away to go.

Since 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress in Caracas, 2012, TUI (Energy) Office Bearers met in May 2013 in Johannesburg. Some of the South Asian countries had scope to meet at Kolkata, India in December, 2013. A meeting was convened at WFTU Hqrs in February, 2015. Comrade Mavrikos took part in the meeting and gave us valued guidance to put effort towards development of Sub-Regional coordination among the countries concerned. Immense scope was there in Asia, Africa and Latin America. TUI (Energy) Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference took place in Caracas on 19-20 August, 2015. In fact, TUI(Energy) could not send any formal delegation in 17<sup>th</sup> World

Congress of WFTU in Durban. Some of TUI (Energy) office bearers took part on behalf of Trade Unions of their respective countries. With the broad support and initiative of WFTU central leadership 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress of TUI (Energy) will take place at Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago) on 7-8 December next. We are determined to cover our lapse gaps through this Congress.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and the World Energy Council issued a joint report named "World Energy Assessment: Energy and the Challenge of Sustainability". This report of year 2000 highlighted the strong nexus between energy and poverty and called for world action to provide access to energy services for all. This report quoted the Brundland report of 1986 as under:

"Energy services are a crucial input to the primary development challenge of providing adequate food, shelter, clothing, water, sanitation, medical care, schooling, and access to information. Thus energy is one dimension or determinant of poverty and development, but it is vital. Energy supports the provision of basic needs such as cooked food, a comfortable living temperature, lighting, the use of appliances, piped water or sewerage, essential health care (refrigerated vaccines, emergency and intensive care), education aids, communication and transport. Energy also fuels productive activities, including agriculture, commerce, manufacture, industry and mining. Conversely, lack of access to energy contributes to poverty and deprivation and can contribute to economic decline."

Apart from whatever, has been mentioned in UNDP, all we are aware that availability of modern energy services is most crucial for improving Human Development Index. Access to modern energy is essential for the provision of clean water, sanitation and healthcare and for the provision



of reliable and efficient lighting, heating, cooking, mechanical power, transport and telecommunications services. But it is most shocking to note that 1.2 billion people of the world are without access to electricity and more than 2.7 billion people rely on the traditional use of biomass for cooking, which is associated with the approximately 3.5 million deaths annually from indoor air pollution. More than 95% of those living without electricity and modern cooking fuels are in countries in sub-Saharan Africa and developing Asia, and they are predominantly in rural areas (around 80% of the world total).

WFTU has achieved a lot to touch its membership strength nearing one hundred million in 111 countries. Not only in all these countries, energy workers are there and class oriented trade unions are also there. It is our limitation that we have not been able to establish communicating relation with these class oriented organisations of energy workers. Besides day to day struggle in the interest of energy sector workers, one of the forefront tasks of trade unions in energy sector is to create class consciousness among the people on Right to Energy. Energy workers are aware of the intricacies of capitalist imperialist game plan to curb the rights of the people to access Energy in various forms in total defiance of ethics and charters of global bodies on human rights. All over the capitalist world Energy Resources are transferred to private monopolies in gross defiance of the laws of the land. Curbing of right to energy of the people is initiated from that point. Further steps are adapted to that direction through regulatory reform. Energy security and affordability become a bookish term.

Energy sector workers irrespective of status of technological progress of the country / region, forms and resources of energy are required to serve in very odd and hazardous working condition with lack of adequate training reasonable compensation. Safety regulation is compromised at the cost of limbs and lives of the workers. Job security of the workers becomes vulnerable to protect

the energy security, rather profit security of the Energy companies. Outsourcing, contracting and sub-contracting to multiple stages of energy sector jobs are infusing fumes and foments among the workers. Our unions are to make sense of it and to be prepared with the workers to hit the iron when it is hot.

In some countries there are multiple unions of Coal, Gas, Oil, Nuclear, Renewable and Electricity Workers confederated in National Federation of the Energy workers. In some other countries no such form has been conceived. WFTU leadership should pay attention to this area. Unless, closer consolidation is developed among different segments of energy, we shall not be able to intensify global thrust on energy workers struggle to wrench the capitalist-imperialist hegemony in the whole gamut of market driven energy business over the globe.

I like to have the privilege to quote WFTU General Secretary, while guiding the tasks of TUs: **“The action of our sectoral organizations must be the vehicle which connects the daily trade union action in the workplace with the political struggle to overthrow the capitalist system which raises these problems. The positive outcome of daily struggle is harder without being linked with the historical mission, the historical duty of the working class. Otherwise, any achievements that may come will be limited, temporary and without prospect.”**

We are confident, outcome of this important meeting taking place in an important city Kolkata, major citadel of class struggle in India, in the year of 200<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of comrade Karl Marx and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Great October Revolution will lead us to declare firmly with escalated confidence, WE SHALL OVERCOME. Thank you all for your attention.

Long live WFTU

Long live the Working Class Unity

Long live Revolution



## WFTU calls : Intensify class struggle to resist Neo-Nazis

Kanchan Mukherjee

International class struggle requires to be intensified to resist the worldwide rise of extreme rightist forces. Neo-fascists, Neo-Nazis are growing in the European countries. Intensified working class movements irrespective of religion, caste & identity can only compel the governments of the countries to change the policies of exploitation. George Mavrikos, the general secretary of WFTU stated the above while inaugurating the annual meeting of office bearers of WFTU alongwith the leadership of TUI on 9th October, 2017 at Hotel - Pride Plaza, Newtown, Kolkata, West Bengal. 67 TU leaders were present at the meeting of WFTU & TUIS on 9th & 10th October, 2017 which include 17 foreign delegates, leaders of 10 TUIS and office bearers of WFTU from India. In this meeting TU leaders from Turkey, Brazil, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Spain, Sri Lanka and Greece were present.

George Mavrikos stated that he is inundated to hold such meeting of WFTU in Kolkata being a marked place of struggle against imperialism. He further stated blue print of working directives in the forthcoming days would be decided from this meeting of Kolkata. By this time worldwide crisis of capitalism have increased to a great extent and in parallel the aggression of imperialism have also been intensified. Marlin-NATO alliance are very much active to continue conspiracy against Cuba, Democratic Korea and to Weaken the left forces in Brazil, Venezuela. So called social Democrats who are in power of government, are following rightist policies practically. Retrenchment culture attacks on working class in the name of curtailment of expenditures have to be resisted by way of intensifying class movements. George Mavrikos emphasised upon organising the vast numbers of toiling masses of South Asia, who are engaged in Leather, Textile and Garments industries.

Swadesh Dev Roye, Deputy General Secretary of WFTU stated this meeting how to combat the problems of political refugees and economical immigrants.

Refugee problems have been given importance at WFTU Foundation Day observation. He further stated thorough discussion on organisational weakness, co-ordination & enhancement of effectiveness of sector basis TUI's should be made.

Mahadevan, one of the Deputy General Secretaries emphasised upon inclusion of more and more workmen under WFTU from 10 nos of international TU's.

K. Hemlata, President of CITU placed welcome address. She stated city of Kolkata has the vast tradition of anti-imperialistic movement. This city has raised voices several times in support of international TU movements, liberation movements. So many international legends like Fidel Kastro, Ho-chi min, General Giap, Yasser Arafat, Nelson Mandela, Ugo Tsavij have visited Kolkata.

Kolkata is powerful outpost of communist movement of the country. Left front government of West Bengal have walked on alternative path for 34 years. Which is precedent in world. Land reform, Panchayet, decentralisation of power etc are some examples which have inspired working class worldwide. She further added, this WFTU meet of Kolkata will show new path of movement & struggle to the working class. We are proud to hold this meeting in Kolkata. The leaders from AITUC, AICCTU, TUCC, UTUC, AIUTUC also addressed at the occasion.

The workers' meet took place at Kolkata University Institute hall at 5 pm on 10th October, 2017 after the office bearers meeting of WFTU and TUIS meeting had been over on 10th October, 2017.

George Mavrikos and his comrades took the chair on the dias within the claps of hundreds of workers, present at the meet. Swadesh Dev Roye, Deputy General Secretary of WFTU conducted the meeting. Prior to deliberation by Mavrikose, Sri Dev Roye invited the foreign delegates and TUI leaders to address the meeting in brief. Accordingly TU leaders Quim Boix Lluch from Spain, Francisco Jose Sousa e Silva from Brazil, Ali Riza Kucukosmanoglu from Turkey, Monzur Moin from Bangladesh, Khaled Monier Hassanin El Feki from Egypt, Andra Hemmerle from France, Janaka Adikari from Sri Lanka, Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury from India on behalf of TUI (Energy) & R Singeravelu from India on behalf of TUI (Constn) addressed at the meeting. All of the speakers briefed about the TU movements in their country, about the movements conducted by TUI, they represent. All of them stated about class unity, class movement and united

movement. They expressed their confidence about alternative world is possible.

Anadi Sahu, General Secretary, CITU WB Committee welcomed the TU leaders of WFTU & TUI'S. He detailed that despite facistic attack continued by TMC led government, Police administration and TMC goons the TU movements & mass movements of West Bengal are on the road to protect democracy, to protect the workers interest relating to wage, job security & social securities. He further stated West Bengal TU movements also remained on the road to express solidarity towards international movements & struggles.

Mavrikos further detailed attacks on the toiling masses of West Bengal or India are not isolated issue. Worldwide working class are also attacked in same manner. Rise of uttermost rightist forces are taking place world wide. Neo Natsi, neo fascist parties in the name of 'Alternative for Doishland' in Germany, 'Golden Dawn' in Greece, 'Freedom Party' in Netherland and 'Eukip' in Britain have been formed. They are misguiding people by blaming Muslims or immigrants as the causes of crisis to safeguard endangered capitalism. Donald Trump has followed same tactics to win the election in USA. Working class world wide are compelled to shoulder the crisis of international finance capital. T.U. rights and right to strike are attacked. Wages, Pension, Social Securities are also curtailed in the name of reducing expenditures. Simultaneously Markin Nato alliance are plundering the wealths of Libia, Iraque, Syria by way of direct or shaddow war. So called international TUS are silent on these incidents. WFTU is seriously concerned under the circumstances. Inhuman financial blockade against Cuba are still continued despite decisions to withdraw such blockade have been taken 35 times in UNO. Aggression by Israil are still unhindered against Independent, Soverign country of Palestine, though UNO has taken resolution by 72 times against such aggression. The organisations like UNO, ILO, FAO are just like handless Jagannath (A deity at Puri, Odisha) relating to the vehimen attacks of Neo liberal policies and imperialism.

Mavrikos stated it is very significant and fundamental question what would be the role of international working class movement to come at this situation? The revisionist 'Yellow Trade Unionists' advocate that they are searching for 'human face' within this situation for more modernisation of capitalism. It has been revealed after one decade of '2008' economic depression that capitalism are more

barbarous, inhuman in question of exploitation. The class movements only can effectively combat the extreme rightists and neo facists. He stated we have two important weapons in our hands. First is internationalism and second is class unity. The progressives, Democratic forces and the people to a great extent are to be included in the resistance by way of strengthening class unity. The TU workers have to reach to the grass roots with the slogan "Undevided struggle against undevided enemy". He further stated he is hopeful that great stay in demonstration programme in New Delhi on 9-10-11th November, 2017 at the call of central TU's will be a milestone in the working class movements of India.

Tapan Sen, General Secretary of CITU expressed his thanks to Mavrikos and he also detailed about the worldwide attacks on working class and toiling masses quoting from the speches of Mavrikos. He detailed and cited many examples of increase of attacks exploitations in the three years of Modi regime by way of curtailment of wages, social securities, Pension.

The business of Joy (son of Amit Shaw) has been enhanced by 16000 times, the wealths of Ambani, Adani have been increased by 25 times whereas the incomes of the toiling masses have decreased. Modi government is trying to devide the working class in the name of religion, to break the working class unity. The authoratarian forces are rising their heads within the structure of democracy. United working class movements, class oriented movements are the only path to resist the attacks under new tactics adopted by the fascist forces. The frontline work of Trade Unions are to organise the workers on their immediate demands. The workers to be organised not only on the demands of wage, Pension, Social Securities, development of class conciousness is the must for the end of capitalistic exploitation. 18 crores of workers took part in the general strike on 2nd September, 2016 but most of the 18 crores of worker voted in the election to form government who are responsible to follow the policies against which workers took part in strike. Such massive attacks cannot be combated unless class oriented movement can be organised in factory gates, in working places. Tapan Sen emphasised upon organising class oriented movements, United TU movements in India.

Swadesh Dev Roye thanked all the speakers and the audience for their cooperation.

## The WFTU – TUIs meeting concluded with the unanimous adoption of the “Kolkata Conclusion”

### ASIA, INDIA, TUI

The 2-days WFTU – TUIs meeting concluded with grate successful today, 10 of October 2017 in kolkata, India. During the meeting delegates from all the sectors discussed for the situation and conditions that the workers face to the various sectors and how the international class oriented trade union movement be organized for its counter-attack in favor of the working class and the cover of the interests of the workers.

The WFTU – TUIs meeting concluded with the unanimous adoption of the “Kolkata Conclusion”:

### **KOLKATA (INDIA) CONCLUSION**

This WFTU – TUI annual consultation meeting is being held around one year after the 17th World Trade Union Congress in Durban, South Africa and around five months after the meeting of the Presidential Council of WFTU in Havana, Cuba. It is being held in a situation when the systemic capitalist crisis is deepening and the capitalist class continues its attempt to protect and increase their profits by shifting the burdens of the crisis on to the working class and other sections of the toiling people. All the hard won rights and benefits of the working class are under attack.

This onslaught has to be fought nationally and internationally. TUIs have a big responsibility in leading this fight. They have to develop and strengthen sectoral and coordinated movements in their respective sectors throughout the world under the guidance and with the support of the WFTU.

The ideology of the WFTU, the understanding of the 17th Congress of the WFTU about the world situation and the role of the class oriented trade unions have to be taken to the grass root level workers in our respective sectors.

TUIs are major bodies of class oriented trade union movement. They have the fundamental responsibility of defending the rights of the workers in their respective sectors including the trade union rights, of linking the workplace with the WFTU.

The basic principle of functioning enunciated by WFTU, of ‘open and democratic functioning’ should be duly reflected in the functioning of all our TUIs. Hence, whatever shortcomings in the functioning of the TUIs exist today have to be overcome with a sense of urgency.

To ensure this, we have to take up the following tasks:

- All TUIs to meet regularly, discuss the developments in their industries, the conditions of the workers in their industries and their struggles in various countries at the

global level. Mechanism for regular sharing of information among all affiliated unions across the globe to be evolved and effectively implemented.

- Support the struggles of workers in their industries across the world, plan solidarity actions and implement them; inform WFTU Secretariat about these

struggles for broader support and solidarity

- Plan activities that would help ideological development of the working class in their respective sectors

- Review implementation of decisions and progress in all meetings and formulate activities accordingly

- Strengthen coordination among the various affiliated unions of the TUIs and between the TUIs and the WFTU to develop effective global resistance to the global onslaught of the capitalists

- The 150th year of publication of ‘Das Capital’ to be observed to spread awareness about the inherent exploitative nature of the capitalist system and raise the



consciousness of the workers on the need to change the system and the role of the working class in ending exploitation.

- TUI affiliates are to take up the day to day problems of workers, analyse objectively from working class angle the cause of problems and organise struggle to fulfil the demands of the workers.

- TUIs to work for developing unity with the farmers, students and self employed people.

- TUIs have the task of promoting international solidarity with workers from other sectors and countries.

- TUIs must pay attention to the diabolical developments of political refugees and economic migrants facing inhuman atrocities internationally which is directly linked to barbarity of imperialism and capitalist crisis.

- TUIs must act as powerful lever of struggle against capitalist barbarism pursued by monstrous multi-national corporations (MNCs).

- To take precise efforts to improve the functional position of the TUIs, with specific attention to strengthen the fund position of the TUIs in order to expand their function and activities.

- To undertake study at regular intervals to trace down the development in industries with facts and figures with

a view to educate the cadres and masses internationally and send the reports to WFTU Secretariat.

- To establish co-ordination between the Regional Offices and TUIs in each Regions, so as to help each other and the implementation of collective programmes.

- TUIs must continuously promote the WFTU amongst the grass root level workers and unions and bring them into the WFTU family. This should be an important parameter to judge the organisational success of all the TUIs.

- TUIs must participate in the activities of the different forums of WFTU and implement the campaign and action programmes time to time decided by the WFTU including observation of the Action Day on 3rd October every year

- TUIs must democratically elect leaders in their Congress ensuring that the new cadres and leaders are active and effective in discharging the responsibility of the office they hold in the respective TUI.

This meeting held at Kolkata, India on 9-10 October, 2017 with representatives from Nine TUIs requests the WFTU Secretariat to concretise the various proposals and action programmes by the TUIs. The Secretariat of WFTU may ensure communication to the TUIs regularly and extend class oriented ideological and organisational support to the TUIs.



**FORTH COMING ACTIVITIES**

1. 9-11 November, 2017 Parliament march at Delhi
2. 18 November, 2017 NCCOEEE Meeting & Southern Regional Convention, Bangaluru
3. Division level Demonstration with mobilization of Workers' on **7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**
4. 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress of TUI (Energy) at Port of Spain 7&8 December, 2017
5. **15<sup>th</sup> December, 2017** PR BHAWAN & EEFI Office Inauguration
6. District/Circle level Demonstration will be organized on **10<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**
7. **Public Contact (Jan Sampark) with other mass organisation from February 2018**  
**Circulation of Hand Bill/Poster, Banner with the Demands of Electricity workers & as well consumers. Exposing Govt's obnoxious relation with Adani - Ambani, Tata – Goenka & Private Power Sector organization. Objects of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014**
8. Mass signature campaign in support of our movement against National Energy / Electricity Policy, Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 as well opposing exploitation of Electricity workers and transfer of Energy Resources to profit monger private companies.
9. 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018  
State level Demonstration - Memorandum Addressed to Chief Minister of the State copy to Prime Minister
10. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018 ( Sub Division/ Division/State level, as decided by the Union)  
**Memorandum to Prime Minister**
11. 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2018 ( Sub Division/Division/ State level, as decided by the Union)
12. 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 Appeal to Legal Authority
13. 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 Notice of cease work on 1<sup>st</sup> August will be submitted by the unions concerned.
14. **National level Cease works on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018.**  
**Year Long Programme on Karl Marx Birth Bi-centenary & October Revolution centenary**

**OBSERVE ENERGY CONSERVATION DAY  
ON 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

# Moments of WFTU-TUIs Annual Consultation Meeting, Kolkata, India



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