

## ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA

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Date :

20<sup>th</sup> December, 2017

### Circular

To

All affiliated / Associated organisations

Office Bearers & Working Committee members

**Sub : Discussions and decisions of Working Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2017.**

Com. K O Habeeb presided over the first meeting of the Working Committee after 8<sup>th</sup> National Conference of EEFI and also the first meeting took place at permanent office of the Federation in P Ramamurti Bhawan, Delhi. Meeting paid respectful homage to martyrs, departed leaders and workers faced tragic death in the NTPC Unchahar massacre.

All members of the Working Committee in their deliberation, warmly greeted CITU leadership for this inspiring initiative, towards setting up P Ramamurti Trade Union Education and Research Centre. Our federation and AIRTWF has been offered to have their national centre in the proposed building to commemorate the name of legendary leader of Indian Trade Union movement and founder General Secretary of CITU. The conception has been translated into reality. Formal inauguration of the building took place on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, on 30<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of our beloved leader.

Report submitted by the General Secretary before the Working Committee, dealt in brief the menacing international situation out of US President's declaration of Jerusalem as capital of Israel. None of the world leader supported him. Government of India kept silence.

The meeting also discussed grave national situation. Secular role of Government of India is being minuscule, while communal fundamentalists are raising heads. RSS, VHP, Bajrang Dal etc. are organizing hate-campaign and blood shading with the support of BJP ruled Central and State Governments.

Topsyturny situation in the Power Sector is being suppressed by the Government highlighting terms like UDAY, SAUBHAGYA etc. Consumers are being loaded with burden of tariff hike. No sign of improvement in the power sector is observed. As on 30<sup>th</sup> November total installed capacity of India stood on 3,31,000 MW but peak demand met in the month of November was 1,50,000 MW. All the state owned DISCOMs are passing through financial crisis due to accumulated loss as well debt burden following Electricity Act, 2003 and prescription of UDAY. Consumers are being loaded with burden of tariff hike to make a clear way for entry of private companies in the revenue potential licensed area of presently state owned DISCOMs.

Power Ministers' conference took place at New Delhi on 7<sup>th</sup> December. It has declared lots promises and Parliamentary Election oriented declaration for 2019 relating completion of village Electrification by 2017, Electricity connection to all willing households by December 2018 and



seamless power supply to the consumers by March 2019. All these points have been highlighted, while provision of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 detrimental to the interest of the consumers has been suppressed. Proposed tariff policy will be published in March 2018, through which cross subsidy will be reduced. All the states DISCOMs will have to clear current dues to Government along with 25% arrears by March 2019.

New Power Minister R K Singh published in National Dailies on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 to adopt the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 in the Budget session of the Parliament. On behalf of EEFI we vehemently opposed the game plan on the part of the Government to curb the Right to Electricity for the economically backward people of India. The intention of the Bill is to extend benefit to well offs at the cost of crores of poor people all over the country at the disguise of allowing consumers to switch off power service companies like mobile phones. Power Industry is going through doll drum Situation, when more than 50% of installed generating capacity kept idle due to paucity of demand, while 30 crore people of India have no access to Electricity.

It appeared in the news papers that subsidies will be distributed through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) to consumers. This is also a plan to further weaken the state owned DISCOMs as the provision of the Act is payment of subsidies to be made in advance. Specific decisions are as under:

1. 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of EEFI decided action plan of struggle concentrating on two main issues. One was opposing Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 and other was intensified struggle against exploitation of contract workers. Point wise actions are:
  - A) National Demand Day 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.
  - B) Division level Demonstration with mobilization of Workers' on **7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**
  - C) District / Circle Level Demonstration : 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2018
  - D) Public contact (Jan Sampark) : From February 2018  
Mass signature campaign
  - E) State Level Demonstration : 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018  
Submission Memorandum to Chief Ministers  
copies to endorsed to Prime Minister
  - F) Memorandum to Prime Minister : 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018
  - G) Appeal to Chief Justice of the High Courts & Supreme Court : 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2018
  - H) Notice of Strike / Cease Work : 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2018
  - I) National Level Strike / Cease Work : 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018  
(If no positive response from all above)

Out of above plan of activities we have already crossed two dates. Status of submission of memorandum was not appreciable out of 44 organisations only 10 organisations took some initiative but only 16 copies of memorandum reached to EEFI Centre. Whether we should continue with the action plan decided or would declare the same beyond our capacity. Members of the Working Committee suggested we should go forward towards implementation of the action plan resolved in the conference setting aside the weakness if any.

#### **Campaign Material :**

**Circulation of Hand Bill/Poster, Banner with the Demands of Electricity workers & as well consumers. Exposing Govt's obnoxious relation with 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.

In respect of public awareness campaign from February 2018, campaign material will be developed and circulated by January all over the country. All state units should translate the material in respective regional language and make their campaign plan available at EEFI National Centre by 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January, 2018. All the organisations ideologically closer to EEFI are to be involved in the campaign.

## **2. NCCOEEE activities:**

EEFI noted that the new Power Minister has announced that the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 will be passed in the budget session of the Parliament. Meanwhile NCCOEEE national chapter met at Bangaluru on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Decision arrived there upon are as under:

- Four Regional Conventions will take place within January 2018, followed by State conventions to create public awareness against the draconian Bill. Proposed places for the Regional Conventions are : Northern Region – Chandigarh, Southern Region – Kerala, Eastern Region – Patna and Western Region – Nagpur / Mumbai. In respect of date and venue mutual discussion among the NCCOEEE constituents should be organized. All NCCOEEE constituents should inform their counter parts in the states of the Region Concerned. So that the convention related to participation and organisation takes place proper regional shape. National leadership should be informed at least a fortnight before the date of the convention.
  - After completion of regional and state convention within January, 2018 a massive rally and demonstration will be organized in Delhi during the budget session of the Parliament. to oppose Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 and demands of the Electricity consumers, workers and engineers.
  - If Government of India does not pay any heed to the protest against the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 and moves towards enactment of the Bill, one day nationwide lightning strike will be resorted to, on the day of moving the Bill in Parliament.
- Dates of Northern, Southern and Eastern Regional convention has been finalized as 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2017; 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 respectively. Western regional convention is yet to be decided. We have taken up the issue of contractor workers also. Now all the NCCOEEE constituents, expectedly will come forward in the movement. We are to take vital role.

## **3. Participation in Maha Padav :**

EEFI took part in the Maha Padav at Delhi between 9 & 11 November, 2017 with over 12000 members from different states. Besides Haryana and Punjab, good number of participants took part from distant states like AP, Telengana, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Uniformed participation of comrades from Kerala & Tamil Nadu drew attention of the rally with the magnificent presentation.

## **4. Co-option in the Working committee :**

Comrade Kuldeep, President and Hiralal Burma, General Secretary HPSEB Employees Union were co-opted as permanent invitee in the Working Committee. Some of the unions have not yet sent their nomination. The Working Committee authorized the General Secretary to include the members on receipt of the nomination from those unions.

## **5. Accounts and Fund position :**

Working Committee reviewed that the fund position of the federation is not healthy. Contribution in the struggle fund from Kerala, Tamil Nadu keeps the activities rolling. Working Committee



put its appeal to all the organisations to remit their contribution by the earliest possible time so that commitment of EEFI towards payment of balance fund for P Ramamurti Bhawan, purchase of car for EEFI National Centre along with day to day expenditure cannot commensurate.

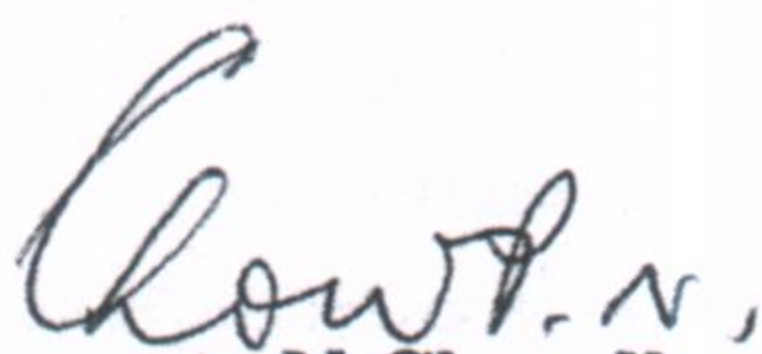
**6. Voice & Website :**

After a long gap an issue of voice has been published covering the conference. Only a few states are sending report for publishing in Voice. We shall publish next issue by early January 2018. All the organisations should send their updated activity report for publishing in Voice. Some of the states sent report on their activities. Those were circulated. Some will be published in the next issue of Voice.

**7. Our website ([www.eeficentre.org](http://www.eeficentre.org)) is being updated with the input from centre. Like press statement, conference report, circulars, Voice in PDF format etc. This site is also starving for the input for the states. Co-operation from major EEFI constituents are solicited. Photographs and brief Report of the activities should be mailed to EEFI Centre par e-mail [eefederation@gmail.com](mailto:eefederation@gmail.com) or [tilakkanungo@yahoo.in](mailto:tilakkanungo@yahoo.in) to enable us to webcast the same globally.**

**8. Celebration of Karl Marx Birth Centenary and October Revolution Centenary:**

Our major organisations have decided and implementing in the respective states on this important revolutionary topic. But EEFI centre is not aware. We planed TU classes in English, Hindi and Bengali. The dates and venue will be intimated in due course.

  
(Prasanta N Chowdhury)  
General Secretary