

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES & ENGINEERS

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CIRCULAR

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Report on Mass Demonstration and Meeting with Power Minister Government of India on 6th November, 2015 at Kochi, Kerala

NCCOEEE is on the path of struggle against Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 well before it was placed in the Parliament on 19th December, 2014. On 8th December there was a Parliament march followed by discussion with the Minister. It was observed that Government has failed to take into consideration the points raised by NCCOEEE. Hence, this demonstration at Kochi was inevitable. A brief report is here under.

Sky exploding slogans and waves of Banners, Flags and Festoons of all Federation of Electricity Employees, Officers & Engineers vibrated the business city of Kochi on the coast of Arabian sea to protest against the draconian Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 initiated by the Government of India to curb the right to Electricity of the poor people of India, of whom 30 crores are still in dark without access to Electricity.

Kerala is to host the Power Ministers' Conference at Kochi on 6th & 7th November, 2015. The information conveyed by Kerala leadership of Electricity Employees prompted the National Leadership of NCCOEEE to decide organizing a protest rally at the venue of the conference. All the National Federations of Electricity Employees, Engineers and Officers of Kerala took the major role to make the protest demonstration successful. Besides Kerala, Power sector leadership of Tamil Nadu and adjacent states also took needful preparation for making the demonstration a mammoth one.

All over the state of Kerala placards, banners and festoons highlighting the anti people features of the impugned Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 were hoisted. The voice of opposing the Bill was brought to the mass for public awareness. The wider ambit of preparation in different places of Kerala at and beyond Kochi, sent appropriate message to the administration. Ministry of Labour Government of India convened a negotiation meeting on 5th November, 2015 in Regional Labour Commissioners Office at Kochi. NCCOEEE Leadership conveyed to them unless senior level officials from Ministry of Power take part in the meeting, none from NCCOEEE will take part. They assured but no policy making authority took part in the meeting. However, they mentioned their endeavour for organizing a meeting with MIC Power on 6th November.


Around 16000 Electricity Employees Officers and Engineers took part in the rally. The participants traversed through Container Road and Marine Drive to reach the venue of the protest demonstration. Com. K O Habeeb presided over the meeting. Com. Manik Dey, Power Minister, Tripura attending the conference took part in the rally and greeted the venture of NCCOEEE in the interest of people of the country. The rally was addressed by

Com. P N Chowdhury, (EEFI); Er P. Rathnakar Rao, (AIPEF); Com. Mohan Sharma, (AIFEEE); Com. Samar Sinha, (AIPF); Com. S S Subramanian, (COTEE); Com. S Ratnasavapati, (TNPWF); Er R Badrinarayan, (AIFOPDE); Sri Sibikutty, (INEWF); Com. B Pradeep, (EEFI) and leadership of other states.

All the speakers dealt in different menacing features of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 and demanded withdrawal of the Bill to protect interest of the consumers. Speakers also decried the Government of India game plan towards more and more profit from the Power sector private players. This Bill will pave the way to weaken the state sector power utilities.

Mr. Piyush Goyal, MIC Power GOI invited NCCOEEE leadership for discussion at 1.30 PM. The meeting continued over 1 hour in a congenial atmosphere. A memorandum handed over to the Minister. He assured the NCCOEEE representatives that there will be no harm for the employees or their job security. His attention was drawn to our memorandum, wherein the concern of financially weaker section of consumers as well undue advantage of cherry picking to private sector has been emphasised. He informed the delegation that a few major change has been done in the Bill, in which the cherry picking scope has been withdrawn. NCCOEEE leadership mentioned that neither Ministry of Power nor Parliament website reflects that change. He indicated as the matter is yet to be approved by the Cabinet, the same has not been published. NCCOEEE leadership further mentioned that compulsion upon the states for implementation of the Act will lead to further load upon state Discoms / incumbent supply companies. He mentioned that the compulsion clause has been withdrawn. States are to decide of their own when they will implement. They will be given their convenient time and scope. NCCOEEE leadership cited the issue of contractor workers. He mentioned that the issue may be dealt separately. Delegation drew the notice of the Minister that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy in their report has mentioned that they have consulted all the stake holders. But the report reflects that concern of the state Governments were not taken care of. Employees and Engineers of Power Sector has not been invited for discussion. Are not we stake holders? Only FICCI, ICC and ASSOCHAM and the business committee are the state holders? He wanted to know whether Employees and Engineers submitted memorandum to the committee. A copy of EEFI memorandum was handed over to the Minister. He told the Parliamentary Committee is not under his control. He always invite consultation.

NCCOEEE delegation mentioned that they have decided to resort to strike action on 8th December, 2015 to oppose the Bill. Mr. Goyal expected that when the redrafted Bill will be published, most of the points of grievances will be dropped. However, if there are any points of grievances are left, a meeting can be convened at Delhi for sorting out the issues.


(A B Bardhan)
Convener