

ALL INDIA FORUM AGAINST PRIVATISATION

AN ATTACK ON ONE IS AN ATTACK ON ALL!

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To

The National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE), New Delhi

On behalf of the All India Forum Against Privatisation (AIFAP) we express our whole-hearted support to the struggle that various National Federations and their associated unions and associations of employees and engineers of state distribution companies (discoms) are waging under the banner of the National Coordination Committee of Electrical Employees and Engineers against the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2021 (EA Bill).

Under the false pretext of giving the choice to consumers to choose their distributor with a view to getting cheaper and better service, the real objective of the EA Bill is to privatise electricity distribution. It will slowly turn the discoms financially sick and they will then be sold away at throw away prices.

The EA Bill will put the future of over 25 lakh workers employed by the discoms as well as their families in danger.

Consumers will also be badly affected by the EA Bill instead of benefitting, as claimed by the Bill, by having the choice to select the distributor. The distributor will actually choose the consumers it wants to serve so that it can earn maximum profit. Small consumers and consumers in far off places will suffer as they will not be profitable for private distributors. Electricity rates will rise. Inflated bills and disconnections will be common. Crores of consumers will be badly hit by the Bill.

The EA Bill asks discoms to compulsorily provide their distribution infrastructure to private distributors to enable them to distribute electricity without making any investment in building their own infrastructure. The extensive infrastructure of discoms has been built over last seventy years by the hard work of lakhs of electricity workers using lakhs of crores of rupees of public money. How can this infrastructure, which belongs to people, be offered for the use of private distributors for earning profit and compete with discoms themselves? This is not acceptable.

Electricity is a basic necessity and an essential service for a modern society. Every person of the country has a Right to Electricity. It is the government's duty to make electricity available at affordable rate to everyone. **The Electricity Act of 1948 stated that it is the responsibility of Government to ensure supply of power in every nook and corner of our country at affordable rates. It also declared that profit should not be the motive of power sector.** The government must honour this commitment given to the country.

The fight of the electricity workers under the banner of NCCOEEE against the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2021 is just and in the interest of people and the country. AIFAP fully supports all your protest actions and wishes roaring success to the proposed strike of electricity workers across the country on 10 August 2021.

In solidarity with you,

All India Forum Against Privatisation

Constituents (in alphabetical order):

- 1) Air India Service Engineers Association (AISEA),
- 2) All India Coal Workers Federation (AICWF),

- 3) All India Defence Employees Federations (AIDEF),
- 4) All India Federation of Electricity Employees (AIFEE),
- 5) All India Federation of Power Diploma Engineers (AIFOPDE),
- 6) All India Guards Council (AIGC),
- 7) All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA),
- 8) All India Pointsmen Association (AIPMA),
- 9) All India Port and Dock Workers Federation (AIPDWF),
- 10) All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF),
- 11) All India Railway Employees Confederation (AIREC) - Western Zone,
- 12) All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF),
- 13) All India Railway Track Maintainers Union (AIRTU),
- 14) All India Station Masters Association (AISMA).
- 15) All India Train Controllers Association (AITCA),
- 16) Bharat Petroleum Technical and Non-Technical Employees Association (BPTNTEA)- Mumbai Refinery,
- 17) Chittaranjan Loco Works (C.L.W.) Railwaymen's Union, Chittaranjan, W.B.
- 18) Chittaranjan Railwaymen's Congress (CRMC), Chittaranjan, West Bengal,
- 19) Cochin Refinery Employees Association (CREA-INTUC),
- 20) DMW Railway Workers Union (DMWRWU), Patiala, Punjab,
- 21) Dakshin Railway Employee Union (DREU),
- 22) Diesel Loco Modernisation Works (D.M.W.) Railwaymen's Union, Patiala, Punjab,
- 23) Diesel Loco Works (D.L.W.) Men's Union, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh,
- 24) Electricity Employees Federation of India (EEFI),
- 25) Hindustan Petroleum Employees Union, Vishakaptanam Refinery,
- 26) Hind Khadan Mazdoor Federation (HKMF),
- 27) Integrated Coach Factory (I.C.F.) Labour Union, Chennai, Tamil Nadu,
- 28) Indian Railway Loco Runningmen's Organisation (IRLRO),
- 29) Indian Railway Ticket Checking Staff Organisation (IRTCSO),
- 30) Integral Coach Factory Mazdoor Sangh (ICFMS), Chennai, Tamil Nadu,
- 31) Kamgar Ekta Committee (KEC),
- 32) Lok Raj Sangathan (LRS),
- 33) Maharashtra State Bank Employees Federation (MSBEF),
- 34) Maharashtra State Electricity Workers Federation (AITUC),
- 35) Men's Congress Diesel Loco Works (MCDLW), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh,
- 36) National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR),
- 37) National Federation of Telecom Employees (NFTE)-BSNL
- 38) Purogami Mahila Sanghatan (PMS),
- 39) Rail Coach Factory Men's Congress (RCFMC), Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh,
- 40) Rail Coach Factory Mazdoor Union (RCFMU), Kapurthala, Punjab,
- 41) Rail Coach Factory (R.C.F.) Men's Union, Kapurthala, Punjab,
- 42) Rail Coach Factory (R.C.F.) Men's Union, Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh,
- 43) Rail Wheel Factory Karmika Sangh (RWFKS), Bangalore, Karnataka,
- 44) Rail Wheel Factory (R.W.F.) Mazdoor Union, Bangalore, Karnataka,
- 45) Research Design and Standards Organisation (R.D.S.O.) Karamchari Sangh, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- 46) Sanchar Nigam Executives Association (SNEA)-BSNL.