



ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA

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Press Release on Energy, Environment & People

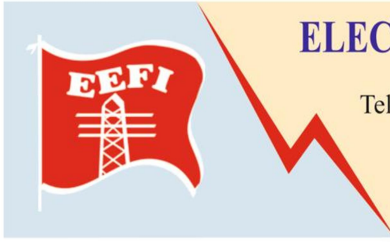
The Working Committee of EEFI virtually met on 28th December last to review the scenario of working class movement in the arena of Energy & Environment in the country on the backdrop of COP26 & Government of India standpoint related to Energy, Environment & silence on transition related plight of Workers & people.

Selling off National resources and assets to private investors at throw away price have been nomenclatured as National Monetisation Pipeline (NMPL). EEFI underlines the fashion of Modi Government of assigning the word National before all its anti-national activities. It has covered almost all lucrative assets including resources like Power Generation, Transmission, Distribution (as envisaged in Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 not included but object is clear). General Assets of NTPC, NHPC, SJVNL & NLC Natural Gas Pipeline of GAIL, Petroleum, Petroleum Product Pipeline, Mining Assets of Coal & other Minerals.

Upon this backdrop, EEFI noted participation of India in COP26. Govt. of India in principle agreed to reduce, carbon emission with target of reaching net zero in 2070. India also stressed for financial and Technological support from developed country purposefully evading the question of per capita emission by the developed countries. EEFI noted that Govt. of India assured reduction of Carbon intensity of its economy over 45% by 2030 with meeting 50% of energy demand from non-fossil sources by 2030. Whether the story behind remains untold?

EEFI appreciated the initiative of IIT Kanpur towards hosting a forum of discussion titled "Just Transition Dialogues: Fore grounding the work force" in December 13-14 at Lucknow with participation of academics, Journalists, civic society organisations / Environmentalists & Trade Unions including EEFI/CITU. Apprehension of the participants on inhuman approach of transition centred in the dialogues contrary to inclusive approach of China, while decade long resettlement of 1.3 million inhabitants of Three Gorges Hydroelectric project was executed.

Continue to Page - 2



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Page - 2

EEFI notes with grave concern that Govt. of West Bengal is evicting 5000 families including 1013 tribal households in Deocha – Panchami in Birbhum District to explore coal mining there, in connivance of Adani group, upon threat and allurements of jobs and money without submission of DPR, Feasibility / Viability Report, Mining Plan, Mines closure plan, and relevant clearance from DGMS, while coal India gave up the project upon non-viability reasons. Originally allocated States like Tamil Nadu, Bihar, UP, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh & Punjab withdraw their hands. We understand energy is most essential element of modern human life but plight of the poor people must have priority consideration.

Govt. of India has placed priority in power sector privatisation, in addition to Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 all Central Sector Power utilities & UT distribution is in the agenda. BJP ruled states are also copying the same towards curbing rights of the rural & poor people from access to Electricity. EEFI greets the farmers under the banner of SKM, united struggle of electricity employees and engineers of J&K, Uttarakhand, UP, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Odisha, Assam and Chandigarh for their valiant struggle against attempts of privatisation.

United forum of Central Trade Unions & independent Federation decided two days' Strike on 23-24 February to press 12 point charter of demands related to life & livelihood of people from all walks of life in the country. EEFI calls upon all its constituents in particular & all employees & Engineers of Power Sector in General to make 23rd - 24th February Strike – a grand success, unless Govt. of India concedes to the demands.

Prasanta N. Chowdhury
General Secretary

K.O. Habeeb
President