

**NCCOEEE Draft Memorandum to Lt. Governor, Puducherry**

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February 1, 2022

The Hon'ble Lt. Governor,  
Rajnivas,  
Puducherry

Sub: Nationwide protest by Electricity Employees & Engineers against unscrupulous decision on the part of Government of India towards privatisation of efficiently managed revenue potential power utilities of Puducherry to its cronies.

Dear Sir

The National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees & Engineers (NCCOEEE), the broad based platform of all national federations of electricity employees and engineers of the country, is functionally vibrant over two decades. NCCOEEE, from its inception opposed anti-people policy of Govt. of India to privatize the power sector making changes in law and coercion.

NCCOEEE observe with utter dismay that your administration is adopting unlawful and illogical steps towards privatisation of efficiently managed revenue potential power utility of Puducherry. In order to oppose this unlawful and scandalous decision, all the organisations of Electricity Employees & Engineers of Puducherry have unanimously decided to resort to indefinite strike from 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022.

Apex body of NCCOEEE in consonance with all its state chapters decided to extend fullest support to this struggle of saving public sector enterprises developed with public exchequer, being planned to profit mulling private company, setting an example of betrayal by the government to people of the country, consumers of Puducherry as well Employees and Engineers of

Electricity department of Puducherry. Employees and Engineers are Government employee, in its true sense and spirit, the decision of Government of India to transfer the public assets to private company or individual entity will tantamount to curbing the constitutionally guaranteed right to livelihood of the employees of Puducherry..

We are submitting this memorandum to conspicuously remind you that as a public servant, you are constitutionally bound to keep the sanctity of the service status of the government employees of power department of Puducherry, what you are going to deny bluntly.

Your attention is drawn to the NITI Ayog document published in August 2021, titled **“Turning Around the power distribution sector, learning and best practices of Reforms”** . Let us quote from Para 2.1 “Globally, 70 percent of distribution utilities are publicly owned. The remaining 30 percent of the privately owned companies are located in middle and high income countries”. India is neither high nor middle income country. It is a country of low income population.

We may also quote from the box in page 20 of the above document:- “A review of global cases of of successful public ownership distribution shows that public Discoms rooted in community participation / ownership and financial and regulatory independence have shown success.....” . Interestingly, a trend towards municipalisation or remunicipalisation is being seen in some countries such as the USA and Germany”.

NITI, the think tank of the Government has not advised it to privatise distribution, It is clear that government is guided by advisors of private companies namely Adani, Amabni Goenka etc.

In this regard it is kindly noted that, the Privatisation proposal which was implemented earlier in several states had utterly failed and caused huge loss to the exchequer.

The duties and responsibilities of the Central Government and State/UT Govt. are clearly classified and regulated in the Electricity Act, 2003. The Distribution of Electricity is purely State/UT Government matter under the regulatory guidance of SERC/JERC and therefore interfering into the business of UT Government of Puducherry by the Central Govt. and compelling the UT administration in Privatisation matter is not only illegal but illogical also from the commercial point

of view like 11% distribution loss, very low tariff of consumers without government subsidy.

As the Government/Administration has not taken any positive steps to resolve the issues, the Employees&EngineersProtest Committee has resolved to go for indefinite strike from 01-02-2022 and during the strike period, any one of the will not carry out any work including normal services to consumers.

The united forum of the employees and engineers requested the Government/Administration to withdraw the proposal of privatisation or corporatisation of Electricity Department of Puducherry and to let continue the Electricity as a Government Department on the backdrop of legal and logical arguments cited above.

NCCOEEE observe that the Government declined to consider the force of logic, as their senses have been crippled by the cacophony of their cronies, so no other alternative was left to power sector employees and engineers of Puducherry to resort to indefinite strike from 1<sup>st</sup> February. Upon these circumstances, all constituents of NCCOEEE, electricity sector employees and engineers of India, firmly stand with their striking counterparts. NCCOEEE submits this Memorandum to you in combination with 2.5 Million demonstrating power sector colleagues in their respective workplaces and to apprise you that, if the ambience of threat, coercion and repression is imposed upon the Puducherry employees, reciprocation will be voiced from all parts of the country.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

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