

ALL INDIA FORUM AGAINST PRIVATISATION (AIFAP)

AN ATTACK ON ONE IS AN ATTACK ON ALL!

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To,
Shri Gopal Dutt Joshi,
General Secretary,
Union Territory (UT) Powermen's Union, Chandigarh

On behalf of the All India Forum Against Privatisation (AIFAP) we express our whole-hearted support to the struggle that your Union has been waging to oppose the decision of the Central government to hand over the Chandigarh Electricity Department to a private company.

We applaud you for your united efforts in exposing the real anti-people, anti-worker and anti-social character of the decision of the Central government. We congratulate you for successfully mobilising public opinion for opposing the move by the Central government.

You have exposed the real anti-people, anti-social character of the privatisation move by explaining in detail that

- The line losses are far below the central government standard of 15% and less than 10%.

- The department has received awards for good service.

- Electricity rates have not been increased by the department in the last 5 years, but in fact this year the rates have been reduced and the rate of electricity up to 150 units is Rs 2.50 and maximum is Rs 4.50. But there is bound to be a massive increase in rates when the department is privatised. In fact Eminent, the company that the government is planning to sell to, is charging rates as high as Rs. 7.16 up to 150 units and Rs 8.92 beyond 300 units in Kolkata!

- The department is being sold for Rs 871 crores despite making a profit of over Rs 1,000 crores in the last 5 years.

- Even though the market value of the total assets of the department is between Rs 20,000–25,000 crores, the same are planned to be handed over to the private company for a paltry 871 crore rupees. And huge land is proposed to be given to the private company on a lease of Rs.1/- per month !

You have very correctly denounced the fact that before taking such a drastic decision, the main stake holders i.e. consumers and workers were not consulted at all. In fact, as you have pointed out, the opposition from workers and Resident Associations has been totally neglected.

It is also well known to all that after privatisation, the corporate owners attack the existing workers. They deny the rights of the workers and resort to mass layoffs, and hire unskilled contract labour at cheap rates, which directly harms the interests of the workers as well as the consumers.

Due to determined opposition by various power sector organisations and associations of workers, officers and engineers all over the country, farmers' organisations and people's organisations, the Central government was not able to put up the Electricity Act Amendment Bill in 2020 or 2021. But it is riding roughshod over the demands of the workers and people at large and forcibly pushing privatisation in Union territories.

In the recent past electricity workers in many parts of the country, including UP, Jammu & Kashmir and Puducherry have succeeded in thwarting the nefarious plans of the the government to enable private monopolies to increase the loot of the people and exploit the labour of the workers.

They have succeeded firstly because the electricity workers of the whole country have overcome all barriers of ideology and affiliation and united under the banner of the National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE). The leaders of NCCOEEE and its constituents have actively been supporting the struggles of electricity workers all over the country.

Another factor that has been crucial to the success of these struggles is the fact that they have very actively explained to the consumers, who number in crores, why privatisation of electricity is harmful to their interests. Chandigarh which is also facing the same threat has also started mobilising the support of people's organisations.

All the constituents of AIFAP wholeheartedly support the ongoing struggle that is being waged by your union.

In solidarity with you,

All India Forum Against Privatisation

Constituents (in alphabetical order):

1. Air India Employees Union (AIEU),
2. Air India Service Engineers Association (AISEA),
3. All India Bank Officers Association (AIBOA),
4. All India Coal Workers Federation (AICWF),
5. All India Confederation of SC/ST Organisations (All India Parisangh),
6. All India Defence Employees Federations (AIDEF),
7. All India Federation of Electricity Employees (AIFEE),
8. All India Federation of Power Diploma Engineers (AIFOPDEE),
9. All India Guards Council (AIGC),
10. All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA),
11. All India New Pension Scheme (NPS) Employees Federation,
12. All India OBC Railway Employees Association – Northern Railway,
13. All India Pointsmen Association (AIPMA),
14. All India Port and Dock Workers Federation (AIPDWF),
15. All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF),
16. All India Railway Employees Confederation (AIREC) – Western Zone,
17. All India Railway Track Maintainers Union (AIRTU),
18. All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF),
19. All India Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribe Railway Employees Association (AISCSTREA),
20. All India Station Masters Association (AISMA),
21. All India Train Controllers Association (AITCA),
22. Andhra Pradesh State Power Employees Joint Action Committee (APSPEJAC),
23. Bahujan Samajwadi Manch (BSM),
24. Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) Employees Association, Palakkad, Kerala,
25. Bharat Petroleum Technical and Non-Technical Employees Association (BPT-NTEA)- Mumbai Refinery,
26. Bhartiya Railway Mazdoor Union (BRMU), SW Railway, Hubli,
27. Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) Employees Union,
28. Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) Kamgar Sanghatana,
29. Chittaranjan Loco Works (CLW) Railwaymen's Union, Chittaranjan, W.B.,
30. Chittaranjan Railwaymen's Congress (CRMC), Chittaranjan, West Bengal,
31. Cochin Refinery Employees Association (CREA-INTUC),
32. Cochin Refineries Worker's Association (CRWA) – CITU,
33. Container Corporation (CONCOR) Employees Union,

34. Dakshin Railway Employee Union (DREU),
35. Diesel Loco Modernisation Works (DMW) Railwaymen's Union, Patiala, Punjab,
36. Diesel Loco Works (DLW) Men's Union, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh,
37. DMW Railway Workers Union (DMWRWU), Patiala, Punjab,
38. Electricity Employees Federation of India (EEFI),
39. Hind Khadan Mazdoor Federation (HKMF),
40. Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) – Telangana,
41. Hindustan Petroleum Employees Union, Vishakhapatnam Refinery,
42. Indian National Electricity Workers Federation (INEWF),
43. Indian Railway Loco Runningmen's Organisation (IRLRO),
44. Indian Railway Ticket Checking Staff Organisation (IRTCSO),
45. Integral Coach Factory Mazdoor Sangh (ICFMS), Chennai, Tamil Nadu,
46. Integrated Coach Factory (ICF) Labour Union, Chennai, Tamil Nadu,
47. Jammu Kashmir Power Employees and Engineers Coordination Committee (JKPEECC),
48. Joint Action Front of Public Sector Trade Unions of Bangalore,
49. Kamgar Ekta Committee (KEC)/Mazdoor Ekta Committee (MEC)/Tozhilalar Ottrumai Iyakkam (TOI),
50. Lok Raj Sangathan (LRS),
51. Madhya Pradesh United Forum of Power Employees and Engineers,
52. Maharashtra State Bank Employees Federation (MSBEF),
53. Maharashtra State Electricity Workers Federation (AITUC),
54. Men's Congress Diesel Loco Works (MCDLW), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh,
55. Mumbai and Suburban Secondary School Teachers Association,
56. National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR),
57. National Federation of Telecom Employees (NFTE)-BSNL,
58. National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS),
59. National Railway Mazdoor Union (NRMU), (Central Railway/Konkan Railway),
60. Neelachal Executives Association, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL),
61. Port, Dock & Waterfront Workers Federation (AITUC),
62. Purogami Mahila Sanghatan (PMS),
63. Rail Coach Factory (RCF) Men's Union, Kapurthala, Punjab,
64. Rail Coach Factory (RCF) Men's Union, Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh,
65. Rail Coach Factory Mazdoor Union (RCFMU), Kapurthala, Punjab,
66. Rail Coach Factory Men's Congress (RCFMC), Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh,
67. Rail Wheel Factory (RWF) Mazdoor Union, Bangalore, Karnataka,
68. Rail Wheel Factory Karmika Sangh (RWFKS), Bangalore, Karnataka,
69. Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) Karamchari Sangh, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh,
70. Sanchar Nigam Executives Association (SNEA)-BSNL,
71. Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) Officers Association,
72. Singareni Collieries Workers Union (AITUC),
73. Singareni Miners and Engineering Workers Union (HMS), Telangana,
74. Subordinate Engineers' Association (MSEB),
75. Surat Trade Union Council (STUC),
76. Teachers Democratic Front Mumbai (TDF),
77. Union Territory (UT) Powermen's Union, Chandigarh,
78. Unorganized Workers and Employees Congress,
79. Water Transport Workers Federation of India (CITU),
80. West Central Railway Employees Union (WCREU).