

ALL INDIA FORUM AGAINST PRIVATISATION (AIFAP)

AN ATTACK ON ONE IS AN ATTACK ON ALL!

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To

Shri Prathap Reddy

Secretary General

AP State Power Employees Joint Action Committee (APSPE JAC).

On behalf of the All India Forum Against Privatisation (AIFAP) we express our whole-hearted support to the struggle that you are waging against the Andhra Pradesh government's decision taken on 22nd January 2022 to hand over the operations, maintenance and assets of Sri Damodaram Sanjeevaiah Thermal Power Station (SDSTPS) Stage I and Stage II to private companies.

The Stage-I units (2x800 MW) of SDSTPS are in operation for just the last 7 years and the 3rd unit of SDSTPS is getting ready for Declaration of Commercial Operation. These projects have been erected using people's money. And now the state government wants to hand over these people's assets to a private party. This is an anti-social action which must be opposed.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh is claiming that the tariff rate being charged by SDSTPS is higher as compared with a neighbouring private power plant and that handing over the power plants to private party will thus reduce the tariff for consumers. However, the tariffs charged by SDSTPS cannot be directly compared to that charged by private players since they are determined by different regulations.

Experience of people everywhere where power generation or distribution has been privatised is exactly the opposite. The private players, whose only motive is to earn maximum profit, use various tricks as a result of which the consumers end up paying much higher tariff. The recent experience when the private power generating companies took disadvantage of coal shortage and tripled or quadrupled tariffs to State utilities is quite fresh in people's memory. Such a step is hence anti-people.

To dissuade the AP power sector employees from waging their just struggles, the State Government and the managements of State Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution companies have been attacking leaders and various union activists by lodging false police cases, by making transfers, by delaying salaries, by refusing promotions etc. If the SDSTPS is privatised such attacks will increase many fold. It will also lead to much higher level of contractualization.

Due to the determined opposition by all constituents of National Co-ordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE), other power sector organisations and associations of workers, farmers' organisations as well as support from people's organisations, the Central Government was not able to put up the Electricity Act Amendment Bill in 2020 or 2021. But just like the Government of Andhra Pradesh, many other state governments are going ahead with steps towards privatisation giving various excuses.

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 various governments 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.

AIFAP fully supports the struggle being waged by you as well as the NCCOEEE and its constituents against the privatisation of SDSTPS by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

We believe in and implement the slogan "An Attack on One is an Attack on All!" and we are sure that with the help of various organisations of workers and other people you will also succeed!

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 (APSPE-JAC),
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 lyakkam (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).

Copies to:

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Hon'ble Energy Minister, Govt. of AP, Amrawathi.

Chief Secretary, Govt. of AP, Amrawathi.

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