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# ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE

ALL INDIA UNORGANISED WORKERS & EMPLOYEES CONGRESS (KKC)

अखिल भारतीय असंगठित कामगार & कर्मचारी कांग्रेस

*Dr. Udit Raj*

**National Chairman**

**Member of Parliament (2014-19)**

**24, AKBAR ROAD,  
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Press Release

New Delhi, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.

Dr Udit Raj, National Chairman of All India Unorganised Workers & Employees Congress, strongly condemned the move of Chandigarh Electricity Deptt. Modi Govt. is not only snatching the bread and butter of employees but getting the public assets robbed. The Chandigarh Electricity Deptt. is not only providing the affordable rate of electricity but also making the profits.

Dr Udit Raj further said that the government advocates affordable drinking water, agriculture and health as a basic necessity, there is an urgent need of Electricity to be included in the same. If electricity is privatised, it will be out of reach for the common man. The Corporates will exploit the common man to any extent for their own benefit. The states in which electricity is privatised in India, the rates have reached exorbitant prices. In spite of making Rs 1,000 crores in profits in the past 5 years, the Chandigarh Administration and Government feels the need to privatise the Chandigarh Electricity department which has been providing seamless electricity 24x7, is quite shocking and clearly consists of ulterior motives. Not only this, but the Private Company acquiring the Chandigarh Electricity Department is one of the most expensive electricity suppliers in India.

Shocking Facts about the Chandigarh Electricity Department

1. When the Electricity Department was set up, there were 1,10,000 connections and 2,200 employees. Today the Department has 2,50,000 connections and has 600 permanent employees and 450 employees who work on contract basis.
2. In spite of decreasing number of employees in the past 5 years, the Chandigarh Electricity Department has won the "Best Utility " award among all Union Territories in India.
3. In spite of not increasing the price of electricity in the past 5 years and providing the cheapest electricity in the country, the Chandigarh Electricity Department has made profits of Rs 1,000 crores.
4. The Plant and Machinery of the Chandigarh Electricity Department is worth Rs 20,000 to Rs 25,000 crores. The government is proposing to sell the same at a peanut price of Rs 817 crores. They are leasing/renting the land for Re 1 per month. This is day light robbery of the public property.
5. The private company which will acquire the Chandigarh Electricity Department is the most expensive electricity supplier in the country and will charge exorbitant prices.

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## **RATE SLAB**

Chandigarh Electricity Department & Calcutta Company's rate differences

<b>Chandigarh Electricity Department's Residential Rates</b>	<b>Calcutta Company's Residential Rates</b>
0- 300 unit – Rs 2.50	First 25 units- Rs 4.89 Next 35 units – Rs 5.54 Next 40 units – Rs 6.41 Next 50 units – Rs 7.16
301- 800 unit – Rs 4.25	Next 150 unit – Rs 7.33
Above 800 unit – Rs 4.65	More than 300- Rs 8.92
Departments 2 month Rates	Company's prepaid Rates

It can also be understood that the government has violated the Electricity Act 2003 by selling the Chandigarh Electricity department to Private Corporates. This step of privatisation by the administration will lead to expensive electricity bills to the ordinary citizen and will be out of reach for the poor people. The people of Chandigarh are being pushed towards slavery in the hands of the Chandigarh administration and government , this needs to be strongly opposed by the residents of Chandigarh. The employees of the electricity department went on strike for 3 days (72 hours) from 22nd February, to oppose the privatisation decision made by the administration. The citizens of Chandigarh have organized a huge rally on 15th February in Sec 17, near parade ground with the Co-operation of Chandigarh's Religious, Political and social organisations including UT Powerman Union. A memorandum was handed over to the governor and the administrator of Chandigarh.

If the Chandigarh Electricity Deptt. privatisation is not halted, the Congress party will launch agitation. Dr Udit Raj has urged the party leadership to take up this in coming season of Parliament.

**(Soniya Rana)**

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