

ਮੁੱਖ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ
ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ



Head Office

Shiromani Akali Dal

To,

Shri Narendra Modi,
Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Union of India.

Respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji,

I would like to bring to your attention that when the central government decided to repeal the three farm laws on December 9, 2021 it assured that it would not go ahead with enacting the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2022 without holding prior consultation with all stakeholders including the States, political parties, farmers and farmer associations.

The Electricity Amendment Bill, 2022 is being brought in parliament tomorrow without holding this consultation. There is a large-scale feeling among States that their rights will be trampled upon if the Amendment Bill is enacted in its current form. There is also the question of federal rights of States being usurped by the Bill which will undermine their authority. Electricity per se is also on the concurrent list and within the ambit of State powers. Considering all this it would be in the fitness of things if the centre initiates detailed discussions with the States and all other stakeholders to address their concerns before bringing the Bill to vote in parliament.

Pradhan Mantri ji, the country has witnessed huge protests earlier over the three farm laws which were eventually repealed. There are apprehensions that if the Amendment Bill is enacted in its current form it would lead to further protests and unrest in the country. This should be avoided at all costs.

Farmers and disadvantaged sections of society are of the firm view that the Electricity Amendment Bill will be detrimental to their interests. There is a feeling that once the power sector is thrown open to private players' subsidies being provided to farmers and disadvantaged sections of society will end. In the case of Punjab there is a feeling that the free power facility

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being provided to farmers for agricultural operations as well as partial free power provided to poorer sections will not be feasible once the new Bill becomes law.

There is also confusion about the functioning of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions once the Central Regulatory Commission takes on their role. The State Commissions work as per the particular needs of a State which will not be possible in the new set up. There is also a feeling that the State power utilities will be saddled with subsidized consumers and that those bearing the cost of cross-subsidization will migrate to private players. This will not only cripple finances of States but also jeopardize the functioning of the State utilities and the future of its employees.

Keeping all these facts into consideration, the SAD requests you to withdraw the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2022 till such time that all stakeholders are not taken on board. The government could in the meantime also refer the Bill to a Joint Parliamentary Committee so that all objections are taken into account and addressed.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

(Sukhbir Singh Badal)

President,

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