



भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन केन्द्र CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

K. HEMALATA
President

TAPAN SEN, Ex-M.P.
General Secretary

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Press Release

CITU extends full support to the striking Maharashtra Electricity Workers & Employees

More than 86,000 workers and employees of Maharashtra State Public Electricity Companies are resorting to historic 72 hours Strike from 4th January 2023 mid-night. The entire Maharashtra Electricity Sector will be under the grip of this Strike. This strong resolute step is a culmination of the long-ongoing united protest-struggle of Maharashtra electricity employees against the heinous plot of introducing Adani Group in distribution service of Navi Mumbai's Bhandup Circle. CITU extends its fullest support towards the Striking Electricity Workers to save the Public electricity sector of Maharashtra.

The Strike is called by the United Forum of all 30 Trade Unions representing the electricity workers and employees of Maharashtra. The protestors are in continuous struggle for more than two months. A series of agitation programme starting from repeated demonstrations of employees in front of the Mahavitaran offices, march of more than 35,000 workers towards the Nagpur Legislative Assembly and then a strong demonstration of 10,000 workers in the Thane city on 2nd January 2023 – nothing could make the government restrain from this blatant anti-people privatisation process. Certainly, there was no option left for the struggling workers except going for Strike to save the Maharashtra State Public Electricity Sector from the claws of Adani!

More strikingly, the Torrent Power and Tata Power have also applied for business in targeted cherry picking areas generating more than 50% of the total electricity revenue earning of Maharashtra. The whole Maharashtra State Public Electricity system is under atrocious attack from all the corners. This blatant hand-over of Public electricity service to Adani will adversely impact 2.8 crore consumers of the state especially below poverty line consumers, farmers and rural residents. Remarkably the comparative average tariff of Adani Electricity Ltd. is much higher than Maharashtra State Supply.

In the most unfortunate move, the Maharashtra government is threatening to declare the Strike as illegal one. They are maliciously invoking the draconian Section 14 of the Electricity Act 2003 for justifying the intrusion of Adani through parallel distribution licensing. CITU vehemently oppose and condemn this authoritarian unilateral highhandedness of the Maharashtra government against the Striking Power Employees.

Undoubtedly, the new Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022 will more profoundly legitimize and accelerate this disastrous parallel licensing process by providing open access of State DISCOM's network to other private players. CITU calls upon all section of workers and people in general to stand beside the Strikers and this heroic Anti-Privatisation Struggle.

Issued By

Tapan Sen
General Secretary

B.T. Ranadive Bhawan, 13-A, Rouse Avenue, New Delhi-110 002

Tel# +91 11 2322 1288 / 2322 1306 Fax# +91 11 2322 1284

Website : www.citucentre.org E-mail : citubtr@gmail.com