

ALL INDIA FORUM AGAINST PRIVATISATION (AIFAP)

AN ATTACK ON ONE IS AN ATTACK ON ALL!

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To,

The Chief Minister,

Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Respected Sir,

All India Forum Against Privatisation (AIFAP) strongly opposes the decision to privatize two big electricity distribution companies (DISCOMS), Purvanchal and Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam which are under UPPCL and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

The reason given for the privatisation of these two DISCOMS of Uttar Pradesh is the increasing losses in the electricity department. The actual situation is that the total loss of the UPPCL is Rs 1 lakh 18 thousand crores, while as of 2023-2024, the outstanding amount to be recovered is Rs. 1 lakh 15 thousand crores, which will be even more during this financial year. The major dues are from big corporates, businessmen and the Government departments. If the UPPCL enforces recovery from the big corporates and businessmen and the Government departments pay its dues, then the "losses" will be wiped out.

Due to the privatization of these two DISCOMS, more than 70,000 regular and outsourced employees are facing the threat of retrenchment. When electricity distribution in Greater Noida and Agra City in Uttar Pradesh were privatized in 1993 and 2010 respectively, the private companies did not employ even a single employee of the then Electricity Board.

The electricity employees and engineers of UPPCL have time and again opposed the attempts to hand over electricity generation, transmission and distribution to private corporate monopolies. This time also they will oppose the same attempts. It is the democratic right of the employees and engineers to oppose any unjust anti-employee attempt of the management. Hence AIFAP strongly opposes and denounces any attempt by the management of UPPCL and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh from denying the electricity employees and engineers this right.

The privatisation of these state owned DISCOMS is entirely for the benefit of profit hungry corporate monopolies who would fleece the consumers of Uttar Pradesh by charging high prices for electricity consumed. Hence, it is against the interests of the people of Uttar Pradesh.

Supply of Electricity at affordable rates is a fundamental duty of the Government and a fundamental right of the citizens and that was the stated reason for establishment of State Electricity Boards all over the country.

The attempts at privatisation of electricity distribution all over the country have been disastrous for the employees of the State Electricity Boards as well as the common citizens. Nowhere has privatisation resulted in reduction of electricity tariffs, especially for the working people and farmers who constitute the majority of the population.

The privatisation of these two major DISCOMs of Uttar Pradesh is meant to pave the way for privatisation of the entire distribution, transmission and generation of electricity in Uttar Pradesh. This cannot be accepted by the employees, engineers and the majority of people of Uttar Pradesh.

AIFAP has 106 member constituents from Central and State Government public sector undertakings. These member constituents are All India Federations, Associations and Unions representing Electricity, Railways, Defence, Port and Dock, Road Transport, Steel, Coal, Petroleum, Banking, Insurance, Shipping, BSNL, etc. as well as people's organisations.

AIFAP calls upon the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and UPPCL to immediately halt its decision to privatise the two DISCOMs, Purvanchal and Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam.

Yours Truly,

Dr. A. Mathew

Convenor

5th December 2024

Cc: Energy Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh

: Chairman, UPPCL

: Convenor, Vidyut Karmchari Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti, Uttar Pradesh