

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES & ENGINEERS

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Press Communiqué

Massive Power Strike Across the Country! Power Workers demonstrated Strong Warning to the Governments!

The National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE) congratulates the power employees and engineers of our country for their unprecedented strike action and massive demonstrations across the nation. The nationwide strike was called by the NCCOEEE, and its impact was evident across all sectors of the electricity industry — generation, transmission, and distribution — in both the central and state spheres, encompassing private and government utilities.

The NCCOEEE highly appreciates the near 80% strike participation in the coal sector and the massive strike action in the petroleum and gas sectors. These three key components of the energy sector participated in today's strike in a highly militant spirit.

As of 3:00 p.m., the strike action was strongest in Kerala, where more than 25,000 employees — i.e., 95% of the total strength of power employees — joined the strike. In Tamil Nadu, over 26,000 employees participated during the first shift, covering generation, transmission, and distribution, including private power utilities. Massive demonstrations and arrests were reported in Tamil Nadu. Over 10,000 employees participated in the Haryana state utility strike. In Maharashtra, more than 80% of the power employees joined the strike, and in the hydro-generation units, participation exceeded 90%. 84% Power employees of Puducherry took part in strike and 33 courted arrest.

The strike was notably effective in Madhya Pradesh, where power employees and engineers participated en-masse and paralysed operations. 40% of the total power employees and 80% of the non-emergency work in Telangana participated in Strike. In Assam, more than 7,000 employees joined the strike. Strike more than 50% in Punjab Power Sector. Massive demonstrations were also held in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The strike was strong in Jharkhand and Bihar. For the first time in a long period, strike action occurred in four districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Strike was partial in West Bengal despite the threat of the state government.

The strike was complete in the recently privatized Chandigarh power utility. Around 30% of permanent and contract workers of the Calcutta State

Electricity Corporation joined the strike, withstanding threats and attacks. Contractual workers of DVC also participated massively.

There was good participation in Power Grid; according to interim reports, the strike was strongest in Southern Region-II, with over 85% participation. Some NTPC plants also witnessed strike action, particularly at the Bongaigaon and Farakka units; demonstrations took place in many other plants. Nine hydel power plants of NHPC in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir were on strike, along with fifteen private and state-run hydel power plants in Himachal Pradesh.

Many state governments have invoked ESMA, but power employees defied and resisted these attempts, making the strike a resounding success nationwide. The strike is against all forms of privatization of power utilities and the imposition of anti-worker Labour Codes. The Central and State Governments must take serious note of the grievances of the employees in this most strategic sector and begin discussions without delay.

The NCCOEEE once again urges the Uttar Pradesh government to immediately roll-back its privatization attempt. Any further steps towards privatization will compel power employees to intensify their actions. The NCCOEEE extends its sincere thanks to power consumers for their physical and moral support to the striking employees. It also conveys greetings to the crores of working people across India who observed the largest-ever General Strike in the country's history. We will fight to our last breath to defend the Right to Energy and the energy sovereignty of every Indian.

Issued by,

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