

ALL INDIA FORUM AGAINST PRIVATISATION (AIFAP)

AN ATTACK ON ONE IS AN ATTACK ON ALL!

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Withdraw the anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-people Draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025

Brothers and Sisters,

On 9th October 2025, the Government of India released the Draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 (EAB 2025). According to the Government's own words, the aim of this bill is "to strengthen and reform the electricity sector in alignment with industry requirements." The government is shamelessly admitting that this bill has the purpose, to "reform" the electricity sector for the benefit of Indian big corporates.

In line with this aim to satisfy the big corporates, the opinions of all the associations of big capitalists, FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM has been sought on the Draft EAB 2025 . It has also sought the opinions of capitalist associations of power producers and transmission and distribution companies which are also led by big capitalists like Tata, Adani, Jindal, Torrent, Anil Ambani, etc. It has asked for the opinions of other capitalists involved in production of solar and wind energy as well as equipment manufacturers for the power sector.

The Government of India did not invite the comments on EAB 2025 from the electricity employees or the people of the country, its workers, farmers, youth and women.

The 2025 Bill fulfils two major pending demands of big Indian monopoly capitalists. One, they want the power distribution sector to be made more attractive for privatisation and two, they want the electricity rate for their industries to be reduced.

Brothers and Sisters,

The electricity distribution network in India, consisting of lakhs of kilometers of cables, transformers and thousands of substations, has been built over the last 70

years by investing lakhs of crores of people's money through state electricity boards, by the labour of lakhs of workers over last many decades.

The EAB 2025 aims to allow the monopoly capitalists to use this existing network by giving them access to it under the parallel licensing system, wherein the monopoly capitalists without any investment in creating infrastructure, can enter electricity distribution in the areas where it chooses. As we all know, Central Government is aggressively pushing scheme for installation of Prepaid Smart meters so as to facilitate advance bill collection by private capitalists in distribution.

As per the Electricity Act 2003, distribution licensees have a Universal Supply Obligation (USO). This means that the distribution licensee cannot refuse to supply electricity to anyone who demands it. This is not at all to the liking of capitalists who have always expressed their desire to pick and choose only those consumers from whom they can earn maximum profit. The newly added Subsection 4 to the Section 43 of the Draft Bill authorises State Commissions to allow the distribution licensee to exempt one particular category of customers. This clearly opens up the possibility to add more categories of consumers in the future and hence is a very dangerous precedent. Going forward this endangers common people and farmers who consume much less power and hence are not "profitable" customers to be excluded from the USO.

State Discoms also will be forced to maintain and upgrade the entire network infrastructure while the monopoly corporates use the same by paying miniscule amounts as 'wheeling charge', effectively socialising costs and privatising profits. The state discoms will be eventually starved of funds and destroyed.

Currently, electricity is supplied at lower rates to the rural population, the farmers, as well as the poorer households in rural and urban areas. Part of the cost of this supply at lower rates is borne by charging higher rates to industries. This is called cross subsidy.

EAB 2025 says the system of cross subsidy i.e. charging higher rates of electricity to industries should be eliminated in 5 years. This has been a demand of the big capitalists as they see it as a means to increase their profits.

Needless to say, the present system of subsidising poorer households will also be eliminated over time once monopoly corporates enter distribution as they have only a profit motive.

The result of the entry of monopoly corporates to electricity distribution will result in increase in prices of electricity and a large part of the earnings of workers and peasants will go into paying for this basic need leading to increased poverty of the working people.

Also, EAB 2025 provides for the establishment of an Electricity Council by the Central Government through a notification. This Council will be chaired by the Union Minister for Power with State Power Ministers as members and will advise the Central and State governments on policy matters and implementation of power sector 'reforms'. Working people of India already have the bitter experience of the GST Council which ensured the implementation of anti-people GST measures uniformly across India. The Electricity Council will also no doubt be a tool to enforce anti-people power policies across India.

EAB also stipulates that the electricity distributed all over India should have a certain minimum amount, to be fixed by the Government/Electricity Council, of power generated from renewable energy, that is solar and wind power. It is to be noted that solar and wind power is generated mostly by private monopoly corporates and through EAB 2025, they want to ensure an assured market for the power produced by them.

EAB 2025 makes it mandatory for Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERC) to revise electricity tariffs every year on 1st of April based on the principle that entire cost of production of electricity should be recovered through the tariff. Electricity Generation, transmission and distribution require huge investments and to stipulate that the entire cost should be recovered from the consumers, the people of India is an anti-people and anti- social demand which is only meant to generate super profits for capitalists who are in the power sector.

The Bill also stipulates that action will be taken against the members of ERC's who fail to set cost effective tariffs!

EAB 2025 should be opposed tooth and nail by all workers in the electricity sector and by all working people of India. It puts the lives and security of 27 lakh electricity workers at risk and threatens them with job losses, contractualization of work, increased hours of work and insecurity of employment.

It will result in increased prices of electricity for the people of India and will become unaffordable to the poorest sections.

Electricity is a fundamental requirement for everyday life. Providing it at affordable rates to the working people of the country is a basic duty of the government. With this Bill, the government is completely abdicating its responsibility and is working only to increase the profits of the monopoly capitalist class.

Brother and Sisters,

We, as an important contingent of working class of India, demand that instead of handing over the infrastructure of state discoms to monopoly capitalists, the

Central and State Governments should provide enough funds to modernise and maintain the power infrastructure across the country so as to ensure that this basic need of all the working people is taken care of. We also demand that all vacancies in electricity sector should be filled and contract workers made permanent instead of outsourcing and contractualization.

Brother and Sisters,

It is not only the electricity sector that the monopoly capitalists want to take over. They are forcing the Central Government to privatise all the public sector and government enterprises including public sector banks, Insurance, Defence, Indian Railways, Docks and Ports, Coal mines and other mines etc. They have forced the Central Government to notify the four labour codes, which will make it possible for these monopoly capitalists to hire and fire workers and many other such measures. It is clear that the entire economic policies are determined by the interests of these monopoly corporates.

The struggle to repeal the Electricity Amendment Bill, is not just the struggle of the electricity employees. It is the struggle of the entire working class and people of India.

As constituents of AIFAP, we strongly oppose all these anti-worker, anti-national and anti-social steps being undertaken by the Central Government including the Draft EAB 2025.

Constituents of AIFAP

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| 1. Air India Employees Union (AIEU) | 11. All India Guards Council (AIGC) | 21. All India Railway Mail Service (RMS) and Mail Motor Service (MMS) Employees Union [Mail Guard (MG) and Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS)] |
| 2. Air India Service Engineers Association (AISEA) | 12. All India IDBI Officers' Association (AIIDBIOA) | 22. All India Railway Track Maintainers Union (AIRTU) |
| 3. All India Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Union (AIAMEU) | 13. All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) | 23. All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) |
| 4. All India Bank Officers Association (AIBOA) | 14. All India New Pension Scheme (NPS) Employees Federation | 24. All India SC/ST/OBC Samyukta Morcha |
| 5. All India Bank Officers Confederation (AIBOC) | 15. All India NMDC Workers Federation | 25. All India Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribe Railway Employees Association (AISCSTREA) |
| 6. All India Coal Workers Federation (AICWF) | 16. All India OBC Railway Employees Association - Northern Railway | 26. All India State Government Employees Federation |
| 7. All India Confederation of SC/ST Organisations (All India Parisangh) | 17. All India Pointsmen Association (AIPMA) | 27. All India Station Masters Association (AISMA) |
| 8. All India Defence Employees Federations (AIDEF) | 18. All India Port and Dock Workers Federation (AIPDWF) | 28. All India Steel Workers Federation (AITUC) |
| 9. All India Federation of Electricity Employees (AIFEE) | 19. All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) | |
| 10. All India Federation of Power Diploma Engineers (AIFOPDEE) | 20. All India Railway Employees Confederation (AIREC) - Western Zone | |

29. All India Train Controllers Association (AITCA)
30. Andhra Pradesh State Power Employees Joint Action Committee (APSPEJAC)
31. Bahujan Samajwadi Manch (BSM)
32. Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) Employees Association (Bangalore Complex)
33. Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) Employees Association, Palakkad, Kerala
34. Bharat Petroleum Technical and Non-Technical Employees Association (BPTNTEA)- Mumbai Refinery
35. Bhartiya Railway Mazdoor Union (BRMU), SW Railway, Hubli
36. Bihar Phule Ambedkar Yuva Manch
37. Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) Employees Union
38. Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) Kamgar Sanghatana
39. Central Railway Mazdoor Sangh (CRMS)
40. Central Railway Trackmaintainer Union (CRTU)
41. Chittaranjan Loco Works (CLW) Railwaymen's Union, Chittaranjan, W.B.
42. Chittaranjan Railwaymen's Congress (CRM), Chittaranjan, West Bengal
43. Cochin Refineries Worker's Association (CRWA) - CITU
44. Cochin Refinery Employees Association (CREA-INTUC)
45. Container Corporation (CONCOR) Employees Union
46. Coyla Mazdoor Union (AITUC)
47. Dakshin Railway Employee Union (DREU)
48. Diesel Loco Modernisation Works (DMW) Railwaymen's Union, Patiala, Punjab
49. Diesel Loco Works (DLW) Men's Union, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
50. DMW Railway Workers Union (DMWRWU), Patiala, Punjab
51. Dravidra Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) ICF Labour Union
52. East Central Railwaymen's Congress (ECRMC) (NFIR)
53. Eastern Railway Men's Union (ERMU)
54. Eastern Railwaymen's Congress (ERMC) (NFIR)
55. Electricity Employees Federation of India (EEFI)
56. Fatima Shaikh Study Circle (Mumbra)
57. Forward Seamen's Union of India (FSUI)
58. Haryana Roadways Workers Union (INTUC)
59. Hind Khadan Mazdoor Federation (HKMF)
60. Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) - Telangana
61. Hindustan Petroleum Employees Union, Vishakapatnam Refinery
62. Indian National Electricity Workers Federation (INEWF)
63. Indian Railway Catering, Tourism, e-Ticketing Staff Federation (NFIR)
64. Indian Railway Loco Runningmen's Organisation (IRLRO)
65. Indian Railway Technical Supervisors Association (IRTSA)
66. Indian Railway Ticket Checking Staff Organisation (IRTCSO)
67. Indian Railways S & T Maintainers Union (IRSTMU)
68. Integral Coach Factory Mazdoor Sangh (ICFMS), Chennai, Tamil Nadu
69. Integral Coach Factory United Workers Union (ICF UWU) (CITU)
70. Integrated Coach Factory (ICF) Labour Union, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
71. Jammu and Kashmir Coordination Committee of Trade Unions (JKCCTU)
72. Jammu Kashmir Power Employees and Engineers Coordination Committee (JKPEECC)
73. Joint Action Front of Public Sector Trade Unions of Bangalore
74. Kamgar Ekta Committee (KEC)/Mazdoor Ekta Committee (MEC)/Tozhilalar Ottrumai Iyakkam (TOI)
75. Lok Raj Sangathan (LRS)
76. Madhya Pradesh United Forum of Power Employees and Engineers
77. Madhya Pradesh Vidyut Nijikaran Virodhi Sanyukt Morcha
78. Maharashtra State Bank Employees Federation (MSBEF)
79. Maharashtra State Electricity Operators Union
80. Maharashtra State Electricity Workers Federation (AITUC)
81. Men's Congress Diesel Loco Works (MCDLW), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
82. Metro Rail Workers Congress (MRWC) (NFIR)
83. Mumbai and Suburban Secondary School Teachers Association
84. Mumbai Port Trust Flotilla Workers Association
85. Municipal Nursing and Paramedical Staff Union, Maharashtra
86. National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR)
87. National Federation of Telecom Employees (NFTE)-BSNL
88. National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS)
89. National Railway Mazdoor Union (NRMU), (Central Railway/Konkan Railway)
90. Naval Employees Union (AIDEF)
91. Neelachal Executives Association, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL)
92. Nhava Sheva Bandar Kamgar Sangathana (CITU)
93. North East Railway Men's Congress (NERMC)
94. Port, Dock & Waterfront Workers Federation (AITUC)

95. Public Sector Coordination Committee, Hyderabad
96. Puducherry Electricity Department Privatisation/Corporatization Protest Committee
97. Purogami Mahila Sanghatan (PMS)
98. Rail Coach Factory (RCF) Men's Union, Kapurthala, Punjab
99. Rail Coach Factory (RCF) Men's Union, Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh
100. Rail Coach Factory Mazdoor Union (RCFMU), Kapurthala, Punjab
101. Rail Coach Factory Men's Congress (RCFMC), Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh
102. Rail Mazdoor Union - South East Central Railway (RMU-SECR)
103. Rail Wheel Factory (RWF) Mazdoor Union, Bangalore, Karnataka
104. Rail Wheel Factory Karmika Sangh (RWFKS), Bangalore, Karnataka
105. Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) Karamchari Sangh, Lucknow, U.P.
106. Sanchar Nigam Executives Association (SNEA)-BSNL
107. Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association (SNPWA)
108. Sarva Karmachari Sangh (Haryana Roadways)
109. Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) Officers Association
110. Singareni Collieries Workers Union (AITUC)
111. Singareni Miners and Engineering Workers Union (HMS), Telangana
112. South Central Railway Catering, Helpers and Workers Union
113. South Central Railway Employees Sangh (SCRES-NFIR)
114. Southern Railway Employees Sangh (SRES)
115. Steel Plant Employees Union (CITU) – RINL
116. Subordinate Engineers' Association (MSEB)
117. Surat Trade Union Council (STUC)
118. Tamil Nadu Electricity Workers Federation (TNEWF)
119. Tamil Nadu Power Engineers Organisation (TNPEO)
120. Teachers Democratic Front Mumbai (TDF)
121. Union Territory (UT) Powermen's Union, Chandigarh
122. Unorganized Workers and Employees Congress
123. Uttar Paschim Railway Mazdoor Sangh (UPRMS-NFIR)
124. Uttariya Railway Mazdoor Union (URMU)
125. Vishaka Steel Workers Union (AITUC), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)
126. Water Transport Workers Federation of India (CITU)
127. West Central Railway Employees Union (WCREU)
128. Western Railway Mazdoor Sangh (WRMS)