

**NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF
ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES & ENGINEERS**

B.T.RANADIVE BHAWAN, 13-A, ROUSE AVENUE, NEW DELHI -110 002,

Tel fax.011- 23219670

€-mail: eeederation@gmail.com

10TH August 2020

Shri R K Singh
Hon'ble Minister of State(IC) Power
and New & Renewable Energy, Govt. of India
Shram Shakti Bhawan
New Delhi- 110 001

Sub: Publishing modified Version of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020:
National Energy Security Day to be observed on 18th August, 2020
by all NCCOEEE constituents all over the country.

Dear Sir,

You are aware; that our forum NCCOEEE comprising of experienced engineers, officers and workmen from power utilities across the country is the single largest stakeholder in the subject matter. We have raised serious concerns and objections to the provisions in the draft bill. It is reassuring to note that some of the concerns are sought to be addressed and the Ministry is keen on further consultations. At the same time there is lack of clarity on many modifications that are mooted now. Many serious concerns on country wide uniform road map on cross subsidy reduction, renewable purchase obligation etc, discarding the diverse ground realities in different states and throwing to winds constitutional ethos of federalism, are yet to be addressed.

We note from recent official statements that the Ministry is working on significant changes in the draft Electricity Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to take care of the comments received on the draft circulated. As per reports, these include retaining state level committees for selection of Chairman and Members of SERCs, remodeling DBT, merging concepts of franchisees and sub-licensees, stripping off adjudication powers of ERCs etc.

It is understood that during the recent Power Ministers Conference 11 states and 2 UTs has raised serious objections to various provisions in the draft bill and many more states has expressed reservations in the proposed bill. The conference remained inconclusive on the subject and Union Ministry has to offer further discussions with the states before finalizing the draft for placing before Parliament.

Meanwhile, it appears that the recent thrust for privatisation of distribution sector in all union territories even as the country is combating COVID-19 pandemic has once again thrown light on the real intentions of the proposed bill. The stakeholders are viewing the

proposals on franchisees, sub-licensees, contract enforcement authority, and blind assertion on full cost recovery unmindful of current state of affairs etc as a naked attempt to lay red carpet to private capital.

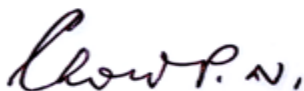
As you would agree, any legislation with far reaching impact as the one proposed can be rolled out in a country as diverse as ours only after taking into confidence all the important stakeholders. Accordingly, we demand publishing the revised draft as soon as the same is ready, for wider consultations and understanding among the stakeholders keeping reasonable time to submit opinion. It is once again requested that the draft bill may be placed for consideration of the Parliament only after fruitful completion of the due consultation process.

You are also aware that entire energy supply of our country is mainly dependent upon coal. Main source of primary energy in our country is Coal. Around 2/3rd of electricity generated in our country comes from coal. While developed countries of Europe and America are steadily reducing coal consumption, we are to import coal to meet our energy demand. Amidst this situation, Govt. of India has decided to commence coal mining by indigenous / foreign private agencies with the provision of exporting the extracted coal as per their discretion. International Competitive Bidding is in progress. All these are being done under the high sounding banner **ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**. All the National Federations of Coal workers resorted to 3 days' strike between 2nd and 4th July last opposing policy of the Government. Study of expert bodies including NITI revealed that importing coal will be inevitable and grow by many times in 3 decades next to cope with energy need of the country. All constituents of NCCOEEE met on 4th August and have come to conclusion that exporting coal is reverse path of self-reliance of the country so far Energy Security is concerned. Privatisation of electricity distribution in UTs, Odisha and UP Purbanchal (Varanasi) will lead to curb access to energy for the poor people further. NCCOEEE decided to extend solidarity support to the struggling coal workers as well electricity employees and engineers to oppose privatisation in the energy arena. **National Energy Security Day** will be observed on 18th August, 2020 all over the country to oppose the privatisation policy of the Government through protest rally, demonstration and meeting.

NCCOEEE urges upon the Government to change its policy characteristics from anti-people to pro-people.

Thank You.

Sincerely Yours,



(Prasanta N Chowdhury)

Convener

9830264170