



Tamil Nadu Electricity Board Engineers' Sangam

தமிழ்நாடு மின்சார வாரிய பொறியாளர் சங்கம்

Regd. No. 124/MDS (Recognised)

(Affiliated to All India Federation of Power Diploma Engineers)

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To

THE CHAIRMAN cum MANAGING DIRECTOR,
TANGEDCO,
Chennai - 600 002.

Lr.No.GS/TNEBES/F1/ D147 / 2020, Dt.09.12.2020.

Respected Sir,

Sub: Points submitted to Respected Chairman cum Managing Director during the discussion held with our Sangam on 09.12.2020.

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TNEB Engineers' Sangam, one of the recognised Trade Unions of TNEB / TANGEDCO representing the cause of more than 8000 members on roll who are basically Diploma Engineers and Junior Engineers, whole heartedly thanks the Respected Chairman cum Managing Director for having invited us for a detailed discussion on our chartered demands.

We put forth the following genuine demands for kind consideration.

- All recent orders on out sourcing the Operation and Maintenance of Sub-stations, maintenance of EHT lines and Hydro Power Project should be dropped and withdrawn immediately, honouring the settlements made with the trade unions.
- Board has to honour the 12(3) settlement made with the trade unions at all costs. In case of matters inviting changes in service conditions Board should hold discussions with trade unions giving due respect to the settlements in force to maintain good industrial relations.
- Citing financial crunch as a reason for privatization doesn't augment well. Board should utilise the expertise and experience of the trade unions in this regard to tide over the financial crisis.

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- The trade unions should be permitted to meet the respected Chairman cum Managing Director at least once a week, as followed in the past, to settle their grievances then and there.
- The Board should withdraw the order on repealing the 13 year old practice of deducting subscriptions and donations from trade union members from their salaries and reactivating the existing practice with immediate effect.
- Tripartite agreement on restructuring of TNEB between Trade unions, Board and Government to be expedited by resuming the discussion with trade unions.
- The entry level vacant post in all categories has to be filled up immediately for smooth and effective functioning of the Board.

We request the respected Chairman cum Managing Director to consider the above said genuine demands, settle the issues early and thereby maintain smooth industrial relations please.

Thanking you, sir,

Yours sincerely,



(V.S.SAMPATHKUMAR)

General Secretary.

Encl: Details emphasizing the above demands.

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Details emphasizing the demands.

Withdrawal of Orders on Outsourcing of Substations, EHT Lines and Hydro Stations:

Substations :

Substations serve as the heart of the Power Distribution Network catering power to the public and the industries. Of late the Operation and Maintenance of newly commissioned and to be commissioned 230 KV substations have been outsourced to private firms. This decision to outsource is totally multistep backwards of TANGEDCO. The TANGEDCO team are not only pioneer in this field but also masters in catering the power.

We feel that this decision to outsource has been taken in haste considering just the running expenses alone overlooking all other technical matters and merits of the existing setup.

We would like to list out the demerits due to outsourcing....

- In principle 10% of the Project cost can be spent generally on Employees cost and presently only 1.75% is spent on this while utilizing Board Employees.
- Considering the huge value of assets of the Substations, it should be handled by competent and experienced operator only which isn't practically possible in outsourcing.

A project worth Rupees 100 crores is entrusted to a tenderer, with a value of less than Rupees 1 crore. The security deposit of the firm with the Board is a meager value of Rupees 5 lakhs. Hence recovery from the firm for any damages on equipment will be in adequate.

- Responsibility cannot be fixed on the outsourcing firm for any damages due to mal operation of equipments leading to unnecessary power interruptions.
- Lack of coordination will arise during emergency or breakdown.
- Downtime of feeder due to breakdown will increase leading to consumer dissatisfaction.
- Expertise of TANGEDCO employees cannot be replicated from the outsourced firm which will lead to unnecessary breakdown and create unwanted crisis.

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- It is very difficult to find persons outside TANGEDCO with experience in Substations connected with grid. Even if we could find few, they will be of no match for the trained, experienced and skilled operators of the Board.
- Lives of Lines maintenance persons, catered by these Substations will be endangered as foolproof system cannot be ensured by the operating personnel of the firm while attending breakdown works.
- Jurisdiction of the firm is fixed within the Substation campus. Responsibility cannot be fixed on the firm for any improper or negligent operation which affects the entire network in a cascading manner.
- Above all only TANGEDCO will be held responsible to Public and Govt. for happenings of mishap whatsoever as the firms would be least bothered about this putting our officials, Board and Government in a tight spot of botheration.

A detailed representation pointing out all the ill effects due to outsourcing of substations has been submitted by us to the respected Chairman cum Managing Director on 24.09.2020. Copy of the representation is herewith attached for ready reference please.

EHT Lines :

Likewise, outsourcing of EHT lines maintenance too will also have its ill effects as it is only the TANGEDCO Employees who are experienced in this works.

Hydro Stations :

- Regarding ill effects of outsourcing in Hydro Power Stations we would like to point out that, a decade ago in Mukurthy Micro Hydel Power House of Kundah Generation Circle the Generator coil burnt-out due to mal operation. Few lakhs was spent on its restoration and the machine was down for almost a year. The reason was due to incompetent operating personnel who didn't know the procedure.
- There are similar such Micro Hydel Power Houses (around 17 Power Houses) which have been outsourced operated by incompetent personnel and maintained poorly making heavy and huge losses to the Board . The pleas of Officials concerned to restore it back to TANGEDCO have fallen in deaf ears. Now the decisions to further outsource the Hydro Generating Stations in Erode and Tirunelveli regions have added to the misery.

Considering all the above ill factors due to outsourcing of Substations, EHT Lines maintenance and Hydro Stations, we request the respected Chairman cum Managing Director to drop the orders of outsourcing executed

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so far and stop further process in this regard forthwith with immediate effect please.

Reforms and Improvement of Revenue in the Board:

Our Sangam whole heartedly appreciates and welcomes the austerity measure undertaken by the Respected Chairman cum Managing Director for the well being and welfare of the Board. Sangam extends and ensures its fullest cooperation in this regard. We have been a front runner in this regard and given loads of suggestions all along these 5 decade history.

- We welcome the initiative of the Respected CMD in bringing transparency in Stores transaction.
- This transparency has been widely appreciated by the Section Officers as it eases their work in bringing the indented materials at their footsteps.

While we welcome the above reforms of the respected Chairman cum Managing Director, we would like to point of the following matters with concern which needs improvisation for better functioning of section offices which are the heart of the distribution network catering the need of the General Public, thereby improving the image of the Government and Board.

- Existing computer systems at all offices should be replaced, as these were supplied long ago during Project BEST introduction.
- While replacing the computer systems, they should be provided with the latest version of software and hardware supporting IMS.
- Server capacity should be increased adequately to match the current needs.
- Lease line / Broad band / VPN connectivity speed has to be increased to cater the increased data transfer of IMS.
- All Work Stations has to be provided with Intranet and Internet provisions with adequate speed.
- IMS software may be made user friendly.
- Scanners to be provided to all IMS users which aren't provided currently.
- Quality materials and equipments to be supplied to avoid accidents and reoccurrence of faults.
- Norms and Rules of TNERC to be followed in all respects and no instructions overruling or violating the same may be avoided.

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Revival of Renewable Energy PPAs.

We, the TANGEDCO, have now started functioning as commercial organization and have to procure power which is commercially viable. The PPAs which involves renewable energy, viz: Solar and Wind power, has been purchased at a cost which does not meet our commercial cost and over and above the rates fixed by the TNERC. Hence the long term PPAs has to be revived, as done in Telangana State.

Improvising the efficiency and reliability of Thermal Stations.

- For reducing the operation expenditure of Thermal Power Stations, Procurement of imported coal to be avoided totally.
- Handling and procurement of Indian Coal from various Collieries may be entrusted to CIMFR as being done by NTPC to ensure the quality of coal.

All the points narrated above may be looked into with utmost concern and implemented for the well being of the Board. We are always ready to present a detailed report in this regard whenever required.



(V.S.SAMPATHKUMAR)

General Secretary.