

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/D.128 /2020, Dt.24.09.2020

Respected Sir,

Sub: Violation of Work Load settlement by Outsourcing of Substations – Decision taken without analyzing facts – Registration of protest and request cancellation of executed orders – Request Sanctioning of posts in all Newly Commissioned Substations to honour the Work Load settlement – Represented regarding.

Ref: 1. (Per.) FB TANGEDCO Proceedings No.8 (SB), Dated :02.03.2018.
2. (Per) CH TANTRANSCO Proceedings No.121 Dt.12.08.2020
3. (Per) CH TANTRANSCO Proceedings No.131 Dt.27.08.2020
4. (Per) CH TANTRANSCO Proceedings No.134 Dt.21.09.2020

Austerity measures are being carried out in the Board in full swing ever since the present Respected Chairman cum Managing Director took charge a couple of months ago. TNEB Engineers' Sangam whole heartedly welcomes this initiative being carried out by the Respected Chairman cum Managing Director and team, which is done for the wellbeing of the Board.

Yet TNEB Engineers' Sangam would like to register its concern on certain decisions, particularly the orders on Outsourcing of Operation and Maintenance works of Substations vide references 2, 3 and 4 cited. It is against the Work Load Settlement between the Board and the Unions. We sternly and vehemently oppose this decision which are not only shocking but sinister in nature.

As per the norms, Board enters into Work Load Settlement with Unions every 4 years as cited under reference – 1 for effective and smooth functioning. Unions enter into this settlement sacrificing many of their benefits for the well being of the Board and its members. Both the sides have the moral responsibility to adhere without violation. In case of violation, Unions have their rights to raise dispute at the appropriate forum if necessitated.

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The area under dispute, Substations is also covered under the Work Load Settlement and sanctioning of Posts pertaining to Substations are governed by this Settlement. Hence Board is duty bound to discuss with Unions in this regard if at all any need arises for making a change, rather than taking decisions unilaterally. By outsourcing of Substations, Board has not only violated the settlement blatantly but also defeated this concept by breaking the relationship.

TANGEDCO is one of the leading and established firms in the country not only among the Electricity Utilities but the entire Public Sector Companies, catering Electrical Power to the Public and the Industries for more than 6 decades. It's not only built on Money, Material and Man Power but on Commitment and Dedication and Technical Expertise of Engineers and Staff.

The bits and pieces companies which were earlier catering Electric Power territorially were brought under the single umbrella few decades ago and ever since the giant organisation TNEB is flourishing successfully which the Respected Chairman cum Managing Director is well aware of. Hence this outsourcing of Substations is definitely many steps backward and should be avoided.

To substantiate our opposition in this outsourcing matter we list out the following demerits

- Considering the huge value of assets of the Substations, it should be handled by competent and experienced operators only which isn't practically possible in outsourcing.
- Responsibility cannot be fixed on the concerned firm on failure of equipment due to his poor maintenance or mal operation.
- Adherence of rules and instructions in maintaining the network will not be followed leading to cascading problems.
- Chances of replacing our costly equipment with less quality is always possible hence vulnerable for theft.
- Maintenance of secrecy is totally impossible leading to espionage.
- Data supplied by them will always be a manipulated one and questionable in nature.
- Coordination and Restoration in the aftermath of disaster or natural calamity will take a hit.
- Overall cost of maintenance may look cheaper and tenable presently for the newly erected Substations but will rise multi times after aging which is of great concern.
- 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 in a tight spot of botheration.
- Total dependence for Electricity on a private firm will not be in the best interest of the Consumers, Industries, Board, State and General Public.

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- Energy Security, Employment creation and Promotional avenues of Employees will take a jolt.

Hence Outsourcing of Substations will lead to disaster on a long-term and derail the existing network of Electrical System which are well established in TANGEDCO.

We would also like to highlight few real cases where major problems had occurred due to outsourcing in Generation areas, which too needs rectification.

- 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 plea of Officials concerned to restore it back to TANGEDCO have fallen in deaf ears.
- Coal handling system in NCTPS is totally outsourced to a particular firm. During the year 2009 the said firm quoted exorbitant rate for renewal of work. Then Respected Chairman cum Managing Director pulled in all the forces from other Thermal Power Station to setup our own operation system, yet couldn't manage the handling and incurred huge loss to the Board by demurrage and other means.

Finally Board had to budge to the firm's demand after 10 months, this time a rate much higher than the earlier rate. This system is still continuing not only in NCTPS but in MTPS-II also making us dependable on others.

Even after all these demerits, if Board still wants to venture in this Outsourcing of Substations it would definitely be a costly one not just financially alone but on the image of the Board too, which is uncalled for and avoidable.

Our intention is not to merely or bluntly oppose the decision of the Respected Chairman cum Managing Director in this outsourcing matter but to inform the ill effects of it on a long term purely in the interest of the Board as we fear the officials concerned wouldn't have brought all these matters to the knowledge of the Respected Chairman cum Managing Director.

TNEB Engineers' Sangam has always been in the forefront suggesting the Board on Technical aspects and other important issues. As ever we are ready to give our valuable suggestions for plugging the unwanted wastages and pilferages in this matter too. But we sternly oppose the decision of Outsourcing the Operation and Maintenance works of Substations.

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In simple terms a restaurant food may be full of varieties, tastier, cheaper and may make life much easier but it is always the home food which is preferred because, home food means good health, quality and above all self-dependence.

Hence we earnestly request the Respected Chairman cum Managing Director to cancel all the orders issued so far in outsourcing of Substations and sanction posts for all the newly commissioned Substations thereby honouring the Work Load Settlement and thus render justice please.

Thanking You, Sir,

Yours Sincerely,



(V.S.SAMPATHKUMAR)

General Secretary.

Copy to :

1. The Joint Commissioner of Labour / Chennai.
2. The Joint Managing Director / TANGEDCO.
3. The Managing Director / TANTRANSCO.
4. The Industrial Relations Advisor / TANGEDCO.
5. The Chief Engineer / System Operation / Chennai / TANTRANSCO.
6. The Chief Engineer / System Operation / Trichy / TANTRANSCO.