Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025: Why Being Opposed En Masse?

FEATURE

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Voices of protest against the India Government's Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 have begun to emerge en masse stating it as anti-farmer, anti-consumer, and anti-employee. The power employees, engineers, farmers and consumers have started to come on the same page to op-

In a meeting of the National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE) held in Mumbai on 03 November 2025, it has been decided that 2.7 million power employees and engineers across the country will be forced to launch a nationwide movement against the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 and the privatization of the power sector, if the Government of India fails to listen to their voice.

Acting on the strategy prepared for the nationwide agitation against the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025, a united front with the leaders of the electricity employees, Samyukta Kisan Morcha, All India Trade Unions and common consumers will be formed.

State-level joint conventions of NCCOEEE will be held in November, December, and January in all states to mobilize employees and engineers against privatization and the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025, and a call will be given for "Delhi Chalo" on 30 January 2026.

Taking a lead, complying with the decisions of the National committee, All Haryana Power Corporations Workers Union organised a state-level convention on 5th November in Rohtak against the Electricity (Amendment) Bill and accusing the power corporation management of

ignoring the demands of the employees and promoting privatization, announced to protest at the Panchkula headquarters of ACS Power on November 26.

Now the questions arise-Why the NCCOEEE is opposing the bill? How will this bill affect the present scenario?

Explaining the ill effects, in a statement issued by Sudip Dutta, convenor on 4th November, quoted that the NCCOEEE leaders have shown their concern that through the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025, the Central Government wants to privatize the entire energy sector of the country. After privatization, electricity rates will become so high that they will be beyond the reach of farmers and common consumers.

In the press conference attended by leaders of NCCOEEE -Shailendra Dubey, Comrade Mohan Sharma, Convenor Comrade Sudip Dutta, Comrade Krishna Bhoyar, Ratnakar Rao, Sanjay Thakur, Laxman Rathod it was explained how the bill has negative impact.

"Through Sections 14, 42, and 43 of the Amendment Bill, private companies are being given the right to use the network of government electricity distribution companies to supply power, and in return, they will pay only nominal wheeling charges to the government DISCOMs. This will mark the beginning of the end of electricity distribution in the government sector" fears NC-

Committee further explained that the entire responsibility for the maintenance and strengthening of the network will lie with the government distribution companies. The financial burden of this will fall on the govern-



ment electricity distribution corporations, while private companies will be given the freedom to earn money through this net-

Under this Amendment Bill. private companies will not have the obligation of uninterrupted power supply. The adverse consequence will be that private companies will use the government company's network to supply electricity to profitable industrial and commercial consumers, while the responsibility of supplying power to farmers and poor domestic consumers will remain with the government electricity distribution corporations. As a result, government electricity distribution companies will become bankrupt and will not even have money to purchase electricity or pay salaries to their employees.

How will the farmers be looted in the shadow of the new bill?

NCCOEEE stated that the Amendment Bill proposes to amend Section 61(g) to eliminate cross-subsidy within the next five years. Along with this, the Bill provides that electricity tar-iffs should be cost-reflective, meaning no consumer should be supplied electricity at a price lower than the cost. This means that farmers will have to pay at least Rs. 12,000 per month as an electricity bill for a 6.5 horsepower pump if it runs for six hours a day. Similarly, electricity rates for consumers below the poverty line will become at least Rs. 10–12 per unit. Further, the Bill proposes to promote virtual

power markets and marketbased trading systems. This will destabilize long-term agreements and make the cost of power more volatile.

Is the bill against the federal structure of the country? NC-COEEE cautions that presently the electricity is listed in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution under the Concurrent List, which means that the central and state governments have equal rights in matters of electricity. But through this Amendment Bill, the Central Government is taking away the rights of the states in electricity matters, and there will be direct intervention by the Central Government in electricity distribution and tariff determination, which is against the federal structure and spirit of the Constitution.

Farmers' unions have also jumped into the fray. Participating in the convention at Rohtak Haryana, National Vice President of All India Kisan Sabha, Comrade Inderjeet Singh announced that farmers will also strongly oppose the Electricity Amendment Bill being brought to privatize electricity and the installation of smart meters.

Bharativa Kisan Union Ekta Dakonda, Punjab has also come forward to support the agitation against the electricity bill. Angrez Singh Bhadaur, State Press Secretary, informed our representative that in the meeting of the Kisan union, it has been passed that the Electricity Amendment Bill-2025 is being brought by the central government in violation of the promise made to the farmers and this is a ploy to implement privatization in the field of electricity distribution. Therefore, the Electricity Amendment Bill 2025 will be opposed with full

Bhadaur further stated that the Samyukta Kisan Morcha is scheduled to march towards Chandigarh on November 26 and a pre-march meeting will be held at Kisan Bhawan, Chandigarh on November 17 to make concrete plans for this march The main demands of that march will include the demand for cancelling the Electricity Amendment Bill.

The government should not remain so adamant and rigid while deciding such sensitive is sues and always keep in mind the 13 months long farmers' agitation against three black agricultural laws wherein more than 700 farmers lost their lives and ultimately the central government had to repeal those laws

Gateway to universal access to SRHR is human right to health

SHOBHA SHUKLA - CNS A person standing at a table with a microphone AI-generated content may be incorrect.

The human right to health is not a privilege, tt is a legal obligation - rooted in international human rights law - and must form the foundation of all efforts toward universal access, equity, and justice. Protecting, implementing, and enforcing this right is essential for the wellbeing of women, girls, and all gender-diverse

Yet, across the world, sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice (SRHRJ) are increasingly under threat. Regressive policies, shrinking civic space, and a weakening of global solidarity are rolling back hard-won gains, particularly for those already on the

According to UN Women, nearly one-in-four countries experienced a backlash against women's rights in 2024 alone. From abortion restrictions and defunding of SRHRJ programmes to rising attacks on gender-diverse peoples, the erosion of rights has become systemic. The urgency to act and to act together - has never been greater.

Translate rights into access and principles into practice

"Operationalising the demands of the right to health requires more than commit-



ments on paper," said Alison Drayton, Assistant Secretary General, CARICOM, Guyana, stressing the need for systems, partnerships, and accountability mechanisms. CARI-COM refers to the Caribbean Community, a grouping of 21 countries (15 member countries and 6 associate members) in the Americas and the Caribbean.

'Through our multilateral cooperation on universal health coverage, gender equality, and reproductive and sexual health, we must collectively translate rights into access and

principles into practice. We are investing in integrated primary healthcare, gender-responsive budgeting, and data systems that make inequities visible and actionable. But this journey is not easy," she said.

For Alison, the core challenge is ensuring that people remain at the centre of health systems. "Health is not a privilege - it is the foundation of humanity and sustainability. Every woman should be able to give birth safely, every adolescent should have access to accurate information, and every person - regardless of gender, income, or geography should be able to lead a healthy life. Let us be bold in our vision and reaffirm that health, equity, and rights are indispensable - and that our collective responsibility is to make them real for every community we serve.

What does the right to

health mean? "The right to health is not simply an obligation - it is a deep commitment," explained Dr Haileyesus Getahun, Haileyesus founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Center for Health Diplomacy and Inclusion (CeHDI). Dr Getahun also leads HeDPAC (Health Development Platform for Africa and the Caribbean) that works with like-minded govern-ments, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean regions, to

forge South-South partnerships that address pressing health challenges and achieve universal health coverage. He earlier served the UN health agency, the World Health Organization (WHO) for over two decades, and was the founding Director of Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). AMR is among the top 10 global health

Dr Getahun underscored that the right to health has been enshrined in several international treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified by 174 coun-

"It entails three key obligations for governments," he said. "First, they must respect by not interfering with citizens' enjoyment of their health and wellbeing. Second, they must protect by ensuring that no harm is brought to this enjoyment. And third, they must fulfill these obligations by establishing administrative systems that ensure every person in their country can realise this right."

Dr Getahun describes the right to health as the gateway to universal health coverage, encompassing all services for all people without discrimination. "Sexual and reproductive health is an integral part of that right," he said.

Dr Vinay Mishra's corner...

Question-I have seen that during festival time such as Diwali, Holi, New Year I feel very tense. Instead of feeling happy I feel tense and tired. How can I deal?

Answer- This feeling arises when emotional, social, and sensory demands exceed your coping capacity.

Strategies to Handle Festive Stress 1.Acknowledge Your Feelings- Accept that it's natural to feel tired, detached, or sad during festivals. Forcing joy only deepens emotional fatigue.

2. Set Realistic Expectations -You don't need to attend every gathering or decorate extensively. Choose what truly matters to you.

3. Establish Boundaries- Politely decline events that feel draining. ac-

4. Simplify Rituals and Taskschores, decorations, or shopping burden you, delegate tasks or scale them down. value

5. Limit Social Media Exposure-Viewing others can exacerbate feelings

of inadequacy 6. Reframe the Festival's Meaning-Shift the festival from being a performance to an opportunity for reflection, gratitude, or solitude. This reframing can transform obligation into personal meaning.

Concerns Raised Over SC's Order to Remove Stray Dogs

By Prakash Shrivastava

Animal welfare groups are reacting strongly to a recent Supreme Court decision that orders the removal of stray dogs from public places and schools in Delhi.

They describe this decision as "unsustainable," "counter-productive," and a "recipe for cruelty."

On November 7, the Supreme Court issued this ruling due to an increase in dog-bite incidents.

They stated that areas like schools, hospitals, bus stations, and playgrounds should be completely free of stray dogs and must be fenced to keep them out.

Recipe for cruelty and chaos PETA India criticized the ruling,



calling it a "recipe for cruelty and ductive." chaos." They argued that rounding up millions of stray dogs and putting them in shelters is unreal-

PETA pointed out that there are about 5.3 crore stray dogs in India, with 80 lakh already in overcrowd-

ed shelters. They suggested that the best approach to handle the situation is to follow the Animal Birth Control Rules and promote a vegan lifestyle.

Unsustainable and counter-pro-

ductive Humane World for Animals India also opposed the ruling, labeling it unsustainable and counter-pro-

They expressed concern that removing stray dogs could lead to more problems, as it may create gaps that new, unsterilized dogs could fill.

They emphasized that the humane way to manage stray dogs is to sterilize, vaccinate, and return them to their communities, rather than relocating them to shelters that don't exist in sufficient num-

They hope the court will listen to organizations that work directly with these issues and recognize the progress made in coexisting with stray animals.