

# Lakhs of power sector workers protest against Electricity Amendment Bill: AIPEF

**New Delhi, Aug 18:** The AIPEF on Tuesday said lakhs of power sector engineers and employees held peaceful protests across the country against privatization of discoms and the Electricity Amendment Bill 2020.

The All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) had given a call for holding a protest day on August 18. "Lakhs of power sector employees and engineers across the country held peaceful protest meetings seeking withdrawal of Electricity Bill 2020 and to oppose the privatization process of electricity distribution in Union Territories and other states," AIPEF spokesperson V K Gupta said in a statement.

Gupta asserted that after strong protest of 11 states and two Union Territories in power ministers' confer-

ence on July 3, the Union Power Minister had committed to bring a modified draft of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020.

However, even after more than 45 days, the government has not placed any new draft in the public domain for comments and Union Territories have been asked to privatize discoms without getting into the details of the ground realities.

The provisions in the draft Amendment Bill to allow private franchisee or sub-licensee will only lead to cherry-picking of remunerative areas affecting the financial viability of dis-coms, AIPEF opined.

It seems that the government is more concerned about the profitability of the private sector power companies, it lamented. *PTI*

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 Update: 2004/05/06 | Date: 2004/05/06 | Page: 34