J&K Electrical Engineering Graduates Association

Constituent of All India Power Engineers Federation And Northern India Power Engineers Federation

JAMMU

Regd. & Recognised Vide Govt. Order No. 3042-GD of 69 Dated : 02-09-1969 & Order No. 3908-GD of 72 Dated : 25-11-1972



Email Id: jkeegajmu@gmail.com

No-JKEEGA/JMU/KMR/476

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Press Release

PDD CEs/SEs/Xens/AEEs/AEs/JEs render mass protest leave

Power Engineers and Employees appalled by apathy; observe protest leave for 24 hours; to agitate again on 25th Sept for 48 hours if demands not met.

Hundreds of Engineers from Junior Engineers to Chief Engineers of the Power Development Department under the banner of the Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association [JKEEGA] of the Power Development Department led by Sachin Tickoo, president and supported by all the major organizations of PDD employees in Jammu namely Diploma Engineers Association, Provincial Power employee's union, Lineman and Workers Union, Technical Employees Federation, JKNGEEA, PEEU & PDL/TDL, and other workers Unions went on mass protest leave for 24 hours starting at midnight of 08th September, after the talks with Principal Secretary PDD remained inconclusive. The protesting engineers and employees gathered in Jammu at PDD Complex Gladni at 9 a.m. and observed a complete sit-in dharna after tendering mass casual leaves to the Principal Secretary of PDD on the issue of the inordinate delay in the filling up of the vacant positions across the hierarchy of the department in all cadres, which has severely dented not only the morale of the officers but also badly affected the delivery of public service and grievance redressal. The Government has failed to fulfill commitments even after nearly two years, made under the legal framework of the agreement dated 21.12.2021 signed between representatives of the Government and the Representatives of the Power employees after 4 days of confrontation in 2021.

While addressing the gathering, Sachin Tickoo briefed upon the step-motherly treatment being faced by the Engineers and employees of the Power Development Department as the competent authorities have been delaying the promotions despite more than 750 vacancies in the hierarchy of engineering cadre and more than 4000 posts in Technical/clerical cadres, with 01 post of Managing Director, 03 post of Executive Director, 05 Chief Engineers, 14 Superintending Engineers, 61 Executive Engineers, 132 Assistant Ex Engineers, 164 Assistant Engineers and around 350 Junior Engineers which are vacant

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leading to situation where every other person is having minimum two or three charge in the corporations of PDD. It is pertinent to mention that promotion files of all cadres are languishing for months and have been tossed between the office of the Chief Secretary and the administrative department, the recent example being the promotion file of AEE as Executive Engineer which has been recommended for promotion by the administrative department in the month of March and is being tossed for last 6 months now and officers falling in the proposal at fag ends of their career, many of whom have superannuated, and officers down the line are also cumulatively affected adversely.

It is pertinent to mention that regularization proposals despite the SAC vide decision dated 23.10.2019 which had sought that the regular promotions be completed within a period of two months, but despite the lapse of 4 years now, the fact is that the entire engineers presently working in different Power Corporations have not been granted a single regular promotion. The Chief Engineers are working in the substantive grades of Assistant Engineers and Superintending Engineers and those below are working in the substantive grades of Junior Engineers. The in-charge placements have also been put to a complete halt thereby leading to a huge chunk of vacancies at each and every level.

He asserted that the situation is so gruesome that right from Chief Engineer to down the line up to Junior Engineer multiple charges have been assigned practically affecting the delivery of the services to the end consumer. Scores of vacancies of Chief Engineer and superintending Engineers, and with more than 60 positions of Executive Engineers vacant, the Executive Engineers/Assistant Ex. Engineers are being overburdened by additional charges with each Executive Engineer holding the charge of two to three Divisions across various Districts.

JKEEGA in the last six months has repeatedly called upon Chief Secretary J&K in his capacity as Advisor to the LG on the issues of PDD, to understand the reasons for holding promotion files in his e-office account for more than 6 months without a positive outcome on filling up of vacant positions being manned by overburdened engineering staff on multiple charge basis, However after the failure of consistent efforts, the resentment in the form of protest leave has been observed today by one and all in the engineering hierarchy to express solidarity with the cause.

The protest demonstrations at all district headquarters were observed by all engineers and employees in far-flung districts of Doda. Kishtwar, Poonch, and Rajouri gathered on dharna sites under the banner of JKEEGA after rendering protest casual leave. Similarly, Engineers

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from the Kashmir Province of the Power Development Department led by Peerzada Hidayatullah General Secretary JKEEGA observed mass protest casual leave and sit in dharna at Bemina PDD complex Kashmir.

The Engineers and employees gathered under the banner of JKEEGA in Jammu and Srinagar collectively decided in the meet to observe 48 hour mass protest leave on 25th September 2023, in case the demands are not addressed.

Warm Regards

Er. Sachin Tickoo President, JKEEGA