

West Bengal State Electricity Board Officers' Association

(Regd. No. 5/16108)

A united Organisation of WBSEDCL, WBSETCL & WBPDCCL

Vidyut Bhavan: Bidhannagar

Block-DJ: Sector-II: Kolkata-91

Memo No.: WBSEBOA/2019 - 21/110

Date: 27.04.2021

To,
The Managing Director,
WBSETCL,
Vidyut Bhavan,
Kolkata-700091

Subject: Arranging of Covid-19 vaccination for WBSETCL employees.

Sir,

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic around March 2020, all employees of WBSETCL have been providing unhindered service in the interest of the Company. Even during the lockdown that started towards the end of March 2020, as well as the cyclone Amphan, which devastated many parts of West Bengal even while the State was still under lockdown, employees of WBSETCL had to disregard their personal health and safety, as well as the health and safety of their family members.

However, now, one year since the beginning of the pandemic, the situation has gone from bad to worse. With the daily number of new cases in the state, as well as the nation, hitting new highs every day, employees literally have to tend to their duties every day under fear of disease and death. While WBSETCL has allowed 50% attendance for a section of employees to avoid over-crowding, and reduce risk of contamination, the reality is that a large section of employees not only have to attend duty every day in the interest of the Company, but also have to come in contact with general public during their transportation, contractors, contractual workers, and other employees of WBSETCL, putting themselves at grave risk of infection.

We have already seen a number cases of sickness, hospitalizations within WBSETCL employees from this killer disease, and such instances can only be expected to grow and become more frequent as the current second wave of Covid-19 ravages the nation. Under the circumstances, the only way forward appears to be vaccination of all employees of WBSETCL against Covid-19.

With the vaccinations being made available to all above the age of 18, as well as being made available for private procurement from 01/05/2021 (as per notification dated 21/04/2021 of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India), it is high time for ensuring vaccinations for all employees of WBSETCL. While a number of site Offices of WBSETCL have locally arranged for Covid-19 vaccinations for their employees, there has been no centralized initiative taken up by the Company for vaccinating all employees. Although some employees have managed to get their vaccinations through personal efforts, the current rush for vaccines makes it extremely difficult for all employees to get ready access to the vaccines, especially since electricity employees have not been considered as Frontline Workers in relevant guidelines of the Government of India.

It is not only disheartening, but highly de-motivating for all employees of WBSETCL to note through newspaper reports that Calcutta University has arranged vaccinations for all its employees, despite the fact that all educational institutions of the state have largely remained

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WBSETCL

closed (with the exception of online courses) since the beginning of the pandemic in India in March 2020, and almost all employees connected with the education sector of West Bengal have been allowed to remain at home since then, while employees of WBSETCL, who have attended their duties tirelessly in public interest throughout the pandemic (and who face real threat of infection every day due to the nature of their work), have to run from pillar to post to get vaccinated for their own safety and the safety of their families.


Therefore, on behalf of WBSEBOA, it is proposed that the matter be taken up by the management of WBSETCL with utmost urgency. Vaccination for all employees of WBSETCL should be arranged by the Company either at tie-up and/or Government hospitals in consultation with such hospitals, or at vaccination camps set up for WBSETCL employees at Vidyut Bhavan as well as the Site Nodal Offices of WBSETCL. The data for all employees who are eligible for / require vaccination can be readily made available from the various reports in this respect being sent from the various units of WBSETCL as per directions of the Higher Authority.

In conclusion, it is pointed out that an "organization", by definition, is a collection of people working towards a common objective or objectives. Thus, an organization cannot be expected to thrive, or even function if the people involved with it are too sick, or worse, to work towards its objectives.

We look forward to serious consideration and full co-operation of the Management regard the instant matter.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,



S. Sengupta,
General Secretary,
WBSEBOA