

English Electric Company Employees' Progressive Union
now renamed as
GEC – ALSTHOM Employees' Progressive Union.

The union was formed in 1960, under the Presidentship of under Mr. S.C.C. Anthony Pillai, with just about 100 members. In 1964, at the time of rationalisation a good number of members chose a different path and the EECEPU, was formed in 1965 under the Presidentship of Sri. Ragavanandhan, which commanded a membership of over 75%.

During 1969-70, both the unions merged under the Presidentship of Sri. Ramasamy M.A., B.L., and from that date, "One Union – One Industry" concept is being implemented in this Company. Later on due to the merging of the company with the French company, "Alsthom", the name of the union has been changed to GEC-ALSTHOM Employees Progressive Union..

Consequently the number of the workers in the Company has drastically comedown to 3500 from 9800 after the globalisation.

Struggles and Achievements:

1. The union has a creditable record of achieving maximum rate of bonus @ 40 – 45% in 1970 incomparable in any other company so far.
2. The company declared a lockout on 14-9-1977, the issue being the bonus demand from the Union. It lasted upto 25-7-1977, when even police cases were filed against workers, though withdrawn later. The significant aspect of the then struggle was not only a reasonable bonus was achieved, but the wages for the lockout were also received.
3. There was another lockout in 1988 in the Company from 9-11-1988 to 19-1-1989 fro the Bonus issue. Hundreds of workers had to go arrest for a day in this struggle. The agitation included blocking by workers, of finished products for sales. Coupled with a court case won by us, the agitation led to a victory for reasonable bonus and lockout wages from the sales of the finished products.
4. There was an intense "Tool-down strike" for a period of 37 days from 6-9-95 to 13-10-95, preceded by a series of conventional agitations. Though a lot of demands were there, a notable issues raised and achieved were one relating to medical schemes for family of the workers.
5. Through legal process going upto Supreme Court, confirmation for 130 casual labours were achieved.
6. The company was forced not to sell it's Porur land meant for the housing project for its workers.
7. The union purchased a land of 11/2 grounds with old building in 1975, for its own office. Declared open by the ex-president Sri. Ramasamy, under the Presidentship of Sri. Kuchelar, later, through regular contribution of the workers

and the financial assistance from the management, a new building at the cost of 15 lakhs was constructed for it's office in 1975. Declared open by Dr. Nedunchezian the State Minister, there is a beautiful park in front of the building. There is also a big community hall, meant for the workers functions free for all trade union activities irrespective of caste and creed.

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List of the office-bearers :

YEAR	PRESIDENT	GENERAL SECRETARY
1966-69	S. Raghavanandam	R. Balakrishnan
1969-72	S. Ramasamy	V.S. Ramachandran
1972-75	„	A.P. Elias
1974-75	„	Part of the year N.Bhaskar
1975-76	R. Kuchelar	P. Gabriel
1976-77	„	A.V. Vasudevan
1977-78	K.S. Narayanan	G.S.B. Prabhu
1978-79	„	John Xavier
1979-80	R. Kuchelar	G.S.B. Prabhu
1980-81	„	V.S. Velayudham
1981-82	„	G.S.B. Prabhu
1982-83	S. Ramasamy	R. Santhanam
1983-84	„	A.P. Elias
1984-85	„	R. Krishnamurthy
1985-86	„	R. Santhanam
1986-87	R. Kuchelar	P. Gabriel
1987-89	„	R. Krishnamurthy
1989-90	K.S. Narayanan	„
1990-91	„	P. Gabriel
1991-92	K.S. Janakiraman	R. Santhanam
Part of theyear	N.V.N. Somu	
1992-93	„	A. Ramanathan
1993-94	„	R. Krishnamurthy
1994-95	R. Kuchelar	„
1995-97	„	R. Krishnamurthy
1997-98	„	R. Santhanam
1998-99	M.V. Narayanaswamy	R. Krishnamurthy

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