

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
LIC BUILDING SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD

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To all the Zonal/Divisional/State/Regional Units:

Dear Comrades,

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF INSURANCE WORKER

Insurance Worker, the mouthpiece of AIIEA completed fifty years of uninterrupted publication in September 2007. Beginning its journey in very turbulent times in September 1957 and continuing it through 50 years, this feat is commendable and a rare one in the trade union movement in India. Edited by Com.Chandrasekhar Bose for four decades and then by Com.N.M.Sundaram, Insurance Worker has kept steadfastly to the declared objectives of AIIEA. A constant and dynamic witness to the struggles of insurance employees under AIIEA for five decades, it has verily served as an important instrument of struggle, providing articulation to the ideology of AIIEA and also expression to the aspirations and vicissitudes of insurance employees' movement.

To have a recap and to mark the Golden Jubilee, the October 2007 issue of Insurance Worker was published as a special golden jubilee number. On 4th October, 2007 a special function was organised at Canteen Hall, LIC Zonal Office, Chennai for releasing the golden jubilee number. It was attended by more than 300 employees. A good number of comrades from ICEU Vellore Division and the President and General Secretary of the ICEU Kadapa also attended the function. A good number of retired employees and the leaders of the AIIPA were also present. Com.N.M.Sundaram, the Editor, Insurance Worker and President AIIEA, presided. Com.Chandrasekhar Bose, leader of AIIEA and founder Editor of Insurance Worker, Com.A.K.Padmanabhan, national Secretary, CITU, Com.R.Govindarajan, Publisher, Insurance Worker, Com. K. Somasundaram, Manager, Insurance Worker, Com. K.Venu Gopal, General Secretary, AIIEA, Com.V.V.R.Shastry, Vice President, AIIEA, Com.Kunhi Krishnan, President, SZIEF, Com. R.D.Dharanipathy, General Secretary, SZIEF, Com. Nanda Kumar, General Secretary, GIEA South Zone were present along with other leaders. Com. K. David, the person behind the regular publication of the journal at Chennai, welcomed the gathering.

Com. K. Venu Gopal, General Secretary, AIIEA, honoured Com. Chandrasekhar Bose, Com. N M Sundaram, Com. R. Govindarajan, Com. K. Somasundaram, and Com. K. David.

Com. R.Govindarajan, in his introductory remarks, recalled that while in the first year of its publication only 900 copies of *Insurance Worker* were printed, today the subscribers are more than 25, 000. He felt that the circulation can be increased further with the active support of the units.

Com.A.K.Padmanabhan, Secretary, CITU, the Chief Guest, who had also been associated with the publication of CITU journals, said that he was aware of the enormous difficulties in bringing out a journal continuously. He congratulated the AIIEA leadership for having published the *Insurance Worker* uninterruptedly for fifty long years. He also said that *Insurance Worker* showed the path for other trade union journals. He released the Golden Jubilee issue of *Insurance Worker* and the first copy was received by Com. Chandrasekhar Bose.

Com. K. Venu Gopal, General Secretary, AIIEA pointed out that *Insurance Worker* was involved in giving ideological orientation to the movement. Referring to the opinion that the language of the journal was tough, he recalled an incident in which a comrade who is working as a Driver in the Zonal Office, Hyderabad was reading the journal sitting in the car and when asked how he managed to understand its contents, he replied that he used to refer to the dictionary for knowing the meaning of a tough word. While thanking all those who contributed to the successful march of the journal, he appealed to the insurance employees to take a pledge on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee to regularly read the journal and also ensure that more and more people read it. He complimented all the comrades associated with the publication of Journal both at Kolkata and at Chennai. He particularly commended the efforts of Com. Ramen Bhattacharjee and Com. K. David.

Com. Chandrasekhar Bose recalled that after nationalization of the life insurance industry, the AIIEA had to focus the demand for standardization of scales of pay and could achieve it after a long struggle and a strike action in 1956. At that time a need was felt by AIIEA to bring out a journal as means to organise the employees. There were constraints in financial resources too. He lauded the role played by Comrades Saroj Chaudhri, Sunil Maitra and Ramen Bhattacharjee in bringing out the journal in the initial stages successfully. The journal carried the political line of the AIIEA as an essential requirement for equipping the employees ideologically. He wished that *Insurance Worker* should march forward and more and more new and young comrades should come forward to share the work so as to take the journal forward.

Com. N.M.Sundaram, in his address, discussed about the Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Constitution and the Directive Principles of State Policy dealing with democracy, right to life and living and right to work etc., which are sought to be trampled under the neo-liberal policies pursued by the Government. He underlined the role played by *Insurance Worker* in educating the insurance employees in particular and the workers in general. He felt that as the employees were able to study the tough subjects in insurance education for coming out successful in the Institute examinations, they should also study and understand the contents of *Insurance Worker too* in order to equip themselves with the information to meet newer challenges.

Comrades K. David, V. V. R. Shastry, Vice President, AIIEA, M.Kunhikrishnan, President, SZIEF, P.V.Nandakumar, General Secretary, GIEA, South Zone, extended greetings on the occasion. Com. R.D.Dharanipathy, Joint Secretary, AIIEA, proposed a vote of thanks. Comrades connected with publication of journal at Chennai were honoured in the function.

On this happy occasion let all our units and members resolve to increase the subscription of *Insurance Worker* within and outside the industry, improve serious reading of it and contribute in providing subject matter to the journal and thus make it play a bigger role.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,

General Secretary.