

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
LIC BUILDING SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD

Cir. No. 7/2007
2007

23rd July

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

Dear Comrades,

Magnificent Success of All India Convention of Working Women

The first All India Working Women Convention was successfully organized by AIEEA at Kolkata on 16th July, 2007. The convention was organized as per the decision of 20th General Conference of AIEEA held at Bangalore in February 2005.

Com. N.M. Sundaram, President, AIEEA hoisted the flag of AIEEA amidst slogans reverberating the air at Binani Bhavan, the venue of the convention. Com. Neelima Maitra, President, Federation of All India Anganawadi Workers and Helpers and Com. Chandra Sekhar Bose, the founder leader of AIEEA and the leadership from various units of AIEEA in both life and general sectors were present along with large number of women comrades from the length and breadth of the country. Comrades from the Cultural troupe of Kolkata Metropolitan Division I presented a scintillating performance with inspirational songs at the beginning of the Convention

The proceedings of the convention were conducted by a presidium consisting of Com. Kabita Choudhury (EZ), Com. L. Uma Maheswari (General Sector) and Com. J. Vijaya (SZ). Com. Kabita Choudhury welcomed the gathering.

105 delegates & observers from outside Kolkata, and more than 250 women comrades from Kolkata offices attended the convention.

Inaugurating the first All India Convention of Working Women, Com N.M. Sundaram, President, AIEEA recalled that a conscious decision taken in the Jaipur Conference of the AIEEA in 1988 to organize the women employees into higher activity and higher responsibilities was implemented by various units across the country. He congratulated the women comrades for their contribution in realizing the dream of Jaipur Conference of AIEEA. He said that the all India convention was another milestone in the history of AIEEA.

He explained in detail the threat of the US imperialism which is making all out attempts to spread its hegemony, and attempting to effect regime changes in different countries in the name of establishing democracy. He exhorted the audience to draw inspiration from the militant struggles engulfing the world with particular reference to the developments in Latin America, and called upon the insurance employees to launch a sustained campaign against the nefarious designs of US imperialism which is a threat to third world countries as well as humanity itself. He also called upon the women employees to participate fully in our struggle against attempts to weaken and privatize public sector insurance. He expressed confidence that women employees will rise up to the occasion and fulfill the expectation of AIEEA by contributing to qualitative and quantitative growth of the organisation.

Com. Neelima Maitra, President, Federation of All India Anganawadi Workers & Helpers congratulated AIEEA for taking initiative to organise the women employees in a systematic way. She explained the pathetic situation in which the women in the unorganized sector are working. She also elaborated how the women are exploited in various forms under the free market economy. She called upon the women

employees organized under AIEA to spread their wings and contribute their best in educating and organising vast sections of unorganized working women in the country.

Com. K. Venu Gopal, General Secretary, AIEA presented the discussion paper to the convention. The discussion paper elaborately dealt with the prevailing situation and the efforts made by various units of AIEA at all levels to organise and promote the women employees throughout the country in insurance sector. In the LIC the percentage of women employees to the total employees is around 25%. Among the women employees in LIC 81% are with the AIEA. In general insurance sector the percentage of women employees is around 17%.

The discussion paper noted that the activity of organising the women employees is taking place across the country with success. But it is not uniform in all the units. The efforts to organise the sub committees in some divisions and regions is yet to take off. The organisation has to firm up the basic activity in these areas. The paper also suggested that special workshops and trade union classes for women can be taken up based on the experience shared by South and South Central Zones. Women subcommittees at divisional/regional/state levels may be encouraged to chalk out innovative programmes like family get-togethers, TU picnics, health talk etc., which will create confidence among the family members of the women employees about the activities of the union. This would help the women comrades to gain the support of the family for their activities. The discussion paper reiterated that organising the women employees is the responsibility of the union. AIEA and the units shall continue the initiative and achieve the task.

A record 28 women comrades from various units of AIEA from both life and General sectors participated in the discussion on the paper presented and enriched it with their submissions. The most appealing aspect of the debate was its quality as the speakers transcending the barrier of issues of the industry spoke eloquently on socio-economic and political issues confronting the people. The richness of the debate reflected the qualitative advancement of the organization.

The discussion paper was unanimously adopted after summing up by Com. K. Venu Gopal, General Secretary.

The convention passed the following resolutions:-

1. Demanding immediate passage of a Bill reserving 33% seats for women in Legislative Assemblies and the Parliament
2. Supporting the struggle of the unorganized workers.
3. Demanding the managements of LIC and Public Sector General Insurance Companies to provide crèche facility and rest room in all offices.

The convention also suggested a programme of action of organising demonstration at all centres on the 1st day of monsoon session of the Parliament and sending a telegram to the Prime Minister demanding immediate passage of the Bill providing for 33% reservation for women in Legislative Assemblies and the Parliament.

Com. J. Vijaya proposed the vote of thanks. The convention came to a successful end with a pledge to carry forward our efforts to mobilize women employees and encourage and promote them to lead the movement at various levels.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,

General Secretary.