

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

LIC BUILDING SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD

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

Dear Comrades,

Countrywide General Strike by Trade Unions on August 20, 2008

- Against Price Rise and anti-people policies

The National Convention of Trade Unions held at the call of Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions decided to go in for **countrywide General Strike on 20th August 2008** to cry a halt to the anti-people policies of the Government at the centre leading to continuous price rise and widespread violation of labour rights with the active patronage of the administration.

The National Convention was held on 13th May 2008 in the Constitution Club, New Delhi.

The Convention was attended by the Central Trade Unions viz., CITU, AITUC, HMS, AICCTU, AIUTUC, UTUC and TUCC and also the all India Federations/Associations of the employees of Central Government and State Governments, Banks, Insurance, Telecom, Defence Production, Airports and Airlines, Railways, Pharmaceuticals etc.

On behalf of AIIEA Com.A.K.Bhatnagar, Joint Secretary, Com.Ashok Tiwari, Joint Secretary and Com.Chacko Daniel, General Secretary, NZGIEU (General Sector) attended the convention. Com.Bhatnagar addressed the Convention on behalf of AIIEA. While highlighting the performances of LIC and Public Sector General insurance companies, he also placed before the convention the dangers confronting the Public Sector insurance industry. He informed that AIIEA has already decided on a programme of protest demonstrations throughout India on 15.05.2008 against price rise. He also supported the declaration placed in the Convention and assured to implement the decisions of the Convention and that the strike action of 20.08.2008 would be a thumping success in insurance sector.

The Convention resolved to go in for phased agitation by the working class all over the country to culminate in countrywide strike action to press for the following demands:

1. Take urgent steps to contain price-rise through universalising the public distribution system throughout the country to cater all essential commodities at controlled prices through PDS and other measures.
2. Strict implementation of all labour laws particularly in respect of minimum wages, working hours, social security and safety and stringent action against all cases of violations; stoppage of contractualisation and outsourcing.

3. Scope of the Unorganized Sector Workers Social Security Bill pending in Parliament to be expanded to cover all unorganized sector workers irrespective of BPL or APL category to ensure a national minimum social security benefit for them as per unanimous recommendation of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour.
4. Farmers Loan Waiver Scheme to be extended to loans from private money lenders; nationalized banks to extend easy credit to peasants at lower interest rate.
5. Lift ban on recruitment in Government services; remove the negative and discriminatory features in the recommendations of 6th Pay Commission and finalise the same for implementation in consultation with the employees' organizations; expedite regularization and grant of pension to gramin dak-sevaks.
6. Expedite wage negotiation for the employees of Central PSUs.

The Convention unanimously decided on the following programmes:

Joint Conventions at state/districts/industrial centres to be completed by 15th July 2008.

Massive demonstration/mobilization/dharna in all the states and industrial centres on 30th July 2008.

Serving of strike notice on 4th August 2008 (demonstrations on that date).

COUNTRYWIDE GENERAL STRIKE ON 20TH AUGUST 2008.

The National Convention of Trade Unions thus has given the call for a strong united movement of the working class to meet the challenges thrown by the government's anti-worker and anti-employee policies. We call upon the Insurance employees who are already on struggle on the issues of wage revision, protection of public sector insurance, price-rise and other issues to be active partners in this struggle.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,



General Secretary.