

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
LIC BUILDING SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD

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

Dear Comrades,

Resounding success of the 20th August 2008 nation-wide strike

The nation wide one day strike of the working class in the country on 20th August 2008 has been a resounding success. It is estimated that nearly 7 crore workers participated in the strike. It is the twelfth general strike organised by the working class in the country since the onset of the neo-liberal policies in the country, in the process succeeding in stalling the pace of reforms.

Reports in the print media noted that in the service sector- Insurance, Banks, BSNL and Postal services- the strike was total. It is also notable that the workers of Public Sector industries participated in a massive way in centres like Bangalore and Hyderabad. According to the reports received by the Sponsoring Committee of the trade unions, the strike was successful in Financial Sector, Steel, Coal and Non-coal Mining, Oil production, refining and marketing, Telecom, Road and Air Transport, Defence Production, Plantation, Central & State government employees, Construction etc. Further, workers in the unorganized sector and contract workers in Central Public Sector Undertakings participated in the strike on a massive scale. Anganwadi workers throughout the country also participated in the strike in a big way. The massive sweep of the strike in the states of West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura turned into complete Bundh and a Bundh-like situation emerged in the states of Assam and Jharkhand.

This successful strike was a clear and loud signal to the government that the policies of liberalization which they want to hasten up at the dictates of the international finance capital, would not be accepted by the working class of this country.

In New Delhi, the joint rally of the financial sector unions was held at Jeevan Bharati building on the Parliament Street. Com. M. K. Pandhe, President, CITU and other leaders addressed the rally. More than 1000 employees attended this rally. In Hyderabad, a largely attended centralized rally was held at Hyderabad DO, and was addressed by Com. K. Venu Gopal, General Secretary, AIIEA. In Chennai, the rally was held at the LIC Building and was addressed by Com. K. David, Manager, Insurance Worker and other leaders. In the cities of Mysore, Bangalore and Hyderabad Joint Action Committees of Trade Unions held massive rallies on the strike day where more than 10,000 workers participated in each of these centres.

In Assam around 2700 workers and employees were arrested at various places. 15 Insurance employees including Com.Ranjit Bhuyan the Organizing Secretary of our Guwahati Divisional Unit, Com. S R Deb (Joint Secretary, NERGIEA), Convener, Joint Council of Trade Unions, along with seven other LIC employees, 3 General Sector employees and five LIC Development Officers were arrested at Tezpur and later released in the evening.

Strike successful in the Public Sector General Insurance Companies:

In Assam the strike was total success. No office could be opened in North Eastern states. The strike was total in the state of Orissa. In Chennai, the strike was observed successfully, and a centralized rally was held in front of the Head Office of United India Insurance Co. In the Eastern Zone, the strike was massive and no office could be opened. In Bangalore and Mysore, the strike was successful and the employees participated in the joint rallies organised by the sponsoring committees at local level. In Hyderabad the centralized rally of general insurance employees was held before the Regional Office of United India Insurance Co. Later the employees participated in the joint rally of the trade unions.

Strike total in LIC:

The Strike performance across the zones was very heartening. The strike performance in East Central Zone as whole was more than 90%. **Our special greetings go to the youngest zonal Association, viz., ECZIEA for this splendid performance.** According to the information so far received, the performances in other zones are: South Central Zone – 86.48%, South Zone – 86.21%, North Zone - 85.7%, North Central Zone - 85.1%, and Central Zone – 83.11%.

Nellore Division (South Central Zone) with a strike performance of 98.92% once again recorded the highest percentage of strike. Out of 744 employees all 736 employees belonging to AIIEA participated in strike and all other 8 employees not belonging to AIIEA applied for leave, thus making it a 100% abstention from duty. Four more divisional units – Visakhapatnam, Berhampur, Sambalpur, and Hazaribagh reported strike performance of 98%.

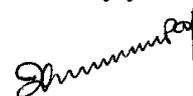
In many divisions the strike performance was above 90% and they include Kadapa, Rajahmundry, Bangalore II, Dharwad, Hyderabad, Gandhinagar, Madurai, Coimbatore, Ernakulam, Jullunder, Amritsar, Ajmer, Karnal, Delhi DO II, Shimla, Bikaner, Raipur, Allahabad, Faizabad, Lucknow, Jamshedpur, Patna, Cuttack, Asansol, Howrah and Kolkata Suburban Division

A special mention should be made here about the strike in the insurances offices in J&K. In the prevailing situation, many LIC offices could not function due to curfew or bundh. But wherever offices were functioning, employees participated in the strike with 86% strike action. This is really an outstanding feature that inspite of all odds our units in J&K have made all-out efforts to see that the united voice of the workers is heard in the state.

With the participation of the workers across all the sectors, supported by the mass organisations from Kisan, Agricultural Labour, Women, Youth and Student fronts, and also with the support by the Left parties and other political parties (as in Andhra Pradesh), the One Day Nation Wide Strike on 20th August 2008, really turned into a national movement to force the Indian ruling classes to give up the neo-liberal economic agenda and adopt alternative people-friendly policies.

AIIEA congratulates all the insurance employees and the working class on the massive success of this united action.

Comradely yours,



General Secretary.