

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
LIC BUILDING SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD

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

Dear Comrades,

MAY DAY 2010

May Day 2010 comes amidst newer and greater challenges for the international working class movement. The Capitalist crisis due to the global financial meltdown has rendered millions unemployed and shattered the lives of the Working Class across the globe. The global economy is yet to make any significant recovery even after three years. The impact of the crisis was widely felt. The collapse of Iceland is not an exception. Greece unless bailed out, is on the verge of collapse. In the entire capitalist world, the governments are making efforts to wriggle out of the crisis by attacking the social security and other hard won rights of the working class. The working class is heroically resisting these attacks. Greece, France, Italy and other European countries witnessed unprecedented strike actions of the working class. Even in the United States, the trade union movement is making a determined effort to thwart the attacks against the working class. The European trade unions have decided to carry out massive struggles to defend the Social Security. The meeting of the European trade unions held in March 2010 on the issue of 'social security in Europe and the role of the class oriented trade union movement' has decided to wage struggles to defend the benefits and rights of the Working Class. The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) has also decided to organize in September this year an International Day of Action.

In India, the UPA government remains committed to the neo-liberal agenda. The Congress led UPA has decided to throw away all pretensions of its commitment to socialism that Indian Constitution talks about. In his budget speech the Union finance Minister has made it abundantly clear that time has come for India to shift to an "enabling from an interventionist state". This clearly means that the poor have to fend for themselves and the State is unwilling to perform its duties as a distributor of social justice. The policies initiated by the UPA government are directed towards deepening the process of liberalization. These policies have ruined the life and living of the working class. There is enormous widening of disparities. The growing inequality and income disparity is sowing the seeds of social unrest having potential to damage the national unity itself. Millions of workers have lost jobs especially in the export based industries. Nearly 350 million are estimated to be below poverty levels and around 5000 children die every day of curable diseases. The back breaking inflation has created huge miseries and Indian agriculture continues to be crisis ridden.

The UPA government instead of drawing up policies to alleviate the hardships of the working class is engaged in doling out unprecedented concessions to the rich and the big business houses. The government has decided to totally dismantle the public sector and allow the loot of the public assets. The Thirteenth Finance Commission has recommended raising Rs.381000 crore through privatization during the period 2010-2015. The Sam Pitroda Committee came out with recommendations to sell 30 percent equity of BSNL and retrench over 1 lakh workers.

On the other side, struggles of the workers against the neo liberal policies continue with palpable results. All the Central Trade Unions without any exception have come together on one single platform to protest against price rise, disinvestment, and on other people's issues. The recent indefinite strike launched by the BSNL employees and officers forced the government to come out with an assurance that any decision on disinvestment and downsizing would be taken only after consultations with all the stake holders. The country has witnessed struggles of different sections of the working people. The doctors, teachers, professors have gone on strike actions on their own economic demands. The people are also resisting the policies of the government. The massive demonstration against price rise by the Left Parties recently across the country indicates the discontent of the people. The level of discontentment and disenchantment was witnessed in the hartal on 27th April 2010 against the price rise and other policies of the government.

The movement of the insurance employees made significant gains in its campaign. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on LIC (Amendment) Bill 2009 upholding the contentions of the AIIEA, was a victory for the campaign and struggle conducted among the public and the people's representatives. In LIC and the PSU General Insurance sectors, the managements had to retrace their earlier positions of no more improvements over the earlier offers and commit for a satisfactory wage revision. In BSNL the Minister himself had to commit to a time frame of 15 days for implementation of the wage agreement which was reached on 15th January 2010 but was delayed all these days. Struggles are developing in various public sector undertakings on the issue of wage revision.

The slogan "Workers of the World Unite" is catching up faster than ever in this era of globalization. Trade Unions across the nations are coming together to find a unified approach to combat globalization. The struggle against globalization has truly taken the form of a global resistance. In this struggle the Indian working class has to play a very important role. The insurance employees under the leadership of the AIIEA will surely be in the forefront of the struggle against neo-liberalism.

On May Day 2010, we are confident that the working class through struggles would overcome the present challenges and make further advancement. We extend revolutionary greetings to all the insurance employees and the working class on the occasion of the May Day. Let the glorious traditions of May Day continue to inspire the working class in its struggle for an exploitation free society.

Long Live May Day.

Comradely yours,

General Secretary.