

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
LIC BUILDING SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD 500 063

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

Dear Comrades,

Com Jyoti Basu Amar Rahe

With profound sorrow and deep grief we have to inform that Com Jyoti Basu passed away today at 11.47 am at Kolkata. Com Jyoti Basu was ailing for sometime and was in hospital for the last 15 days.

Com. Jyoti Basu was a guide and great friend of the insurance employees. The AIIEA was immensely benefited by his guidance. The insurance employees still remember with gratitude the support he gave and the role he played in the epic struggle against automation during 1965 to 1968. Com. Jyoti Basu projected a vision and laid the task for the AIIEA in his inaugural speech to the silver jubilee year conference of the AIIEA in 1978. It was again Com. Jyoti Basu who was instrumental in the West Bengal Assembly passing a resolution opposing the IRDA Bill.

Born in Kolkata on July 8, 1914 Com Jyoti Basu joined the undivided communist party of India in 1944 after his return from England after successfully completing his studies in Law. He organised the railway workers and other sections of the working class. He was elected to the then Bengal Assembly from the Railway Workers' constituency in 1946. In 1964 when the communist movement in India split on ideological and programmatic reasons, Com Jyoti Basu along with other comrades founded the Communist Party of India (Marxist). Com Jyoti Basu was instrumental in forging unity of the left and democratic forces in West Bengal. He played a very important role in the two United Front governments in 1967 and 1969. He led the CPI (M) and other democratic forces to form the front against the semi-fascist terror let loose during the period 1972-1977.

Post emergency in 1977, the people of West Bengal decisively voted the Left Front to power. Com Jyoti Basu became the natural and unanimous choice to lead the government. He remained the Chief Minister for 23 years and voluntarily gave up this position on health grounds. Under his leadership the Left was united and revolutionary land reforms were undertaken and true power to the people was given through Panchayat Raj. These measures changed the lives of millions of poor in rural West Bengal and revolutionised agriculture. Com Jyoti Basu greatly succeeded in keeping West Bengal free from the virus of communalism. He also led the movement for proper centre-state relations. He showed himself to be an administrator of rare calibre.

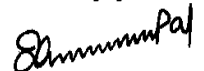
In 1996 Com Jyoti Basu declined the offer of Prime Ministership as a true and disciplined soldier of the CPI (M) party. Com Jyoti Basu was a leader par excellence. He led a simple and dignified life. He rode the Indian political scene like a colossus for nearly half a century. Com Jyoti Basu was an institution in himself.

In the sad demise of Com Jyoti Basu, India lost an exceptional political leader and an outstanding parliamentarian, the working class a great friend, and the poor a true messiah.

In his death the AIIEA lost a guide and true friend. His death has left a void difficult to fill. The AIIEA deeply mourns the death of Com Jyoti Basu and pledges to carry forward the ideals for which he lived and struggled.

Com Jyoti Basu Amar Rahe!

Comradely yours,



General Secretary.