

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

LIC BUILDING SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD 500063

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

Dear Comrades,

MARCH FOR AN ALTERNATE POLICY

The budget session of the Parliament would commence from February 21. The Finance Minister will present the Budget for the year 2011-12 on 28th February. AIIEA is of the view that a Budget is not just an arithmetical exercise. It lays down the policies of the government. The Finance Minister in his last budget speech too said that budget is not mere statistics but a policy statement. While admitting in the appended statements that tax concessions worth Rs.5 lakh crore were given to the corporate sector, he proposed in the budget that public sector disinvestment would be resorted to mobilize Rs.40,000 crores to meet the budgetary deficit. This signaled a clear attack on the living standards of the people while taking all policy measures to protect and advance the interests of the big business. The statement on public sector was the clear intention of transferring the wealth of the nation to the private aggrandizement.

The past one year has been the most difficult period for the vast majority of Indians. The government proclaimed that it is committed to serve the Aam Aadmi. But suddenly the Aam Aadmi totally disappeared from the government's discourse. The uncontrolled inflation broke the back of this Aam Aadmi and there is very little to suggest that prices could be brought under control in the near future. While the Aam Aadmi suffers, the balance sheets of the corporate houses show swelling profits. There is clear evidence that the national wealth is being taken out illegally and stashed in foreign banks. But the government pleads helplessness to do anything about it. No time in the past a government had been so insensitive to the plight of the people.

On 12th January 2011 the nine central trade unions submitted a joint memorandum demanding measures for arresting price rise, lift ban on recruitment and create employment, stop the reforms in banking, insurance and pension sectors, stop disinvestment of public sector, ensure remunerative prices to the farmers, increase tax exemption to Rs.3 lakhs for salaried persons, put in place a progressive taxation system, take steps to recover the unpaid tax arrears and other demands relating to the common people.

A day earlier, the captains of the Indian industry met the Finance Minister and suggested for maintenance of excise duty at current level, and also for reduction of corporate tax. They also made a recommendation for opening up of defence and retail sectors for foreign players.

Thus the Budget for 2011-12 would be presented in the background of back-breaking prices fuelled by the repeated petrol price hikes and government's inability to stop the forward trading. The year also saw farmers in absolute misery due to failure of crops and then destruction of crops by the fury of nature. The budget is going to be presented in the backdrop of rising level of unemployment as revealed by the Report of the Labour Bureau and NSSO surveys and sharp decline in the share of wages in the gross value added as revealed by the Annual Survey of Industries. This clearly portrays the utterly jobless character of the economic operations besides sharp decline in the level of wages on the average.

If there were to be a change of course, it can not come on its own since the policy of the government is not in favour of the common people but in favour of international finance capital and the corporates in India. This has to be forced.

On 7th September 2010, the country witnessed a massive general strike participated by around 10 crore workers across all the sectors and segments pressing for policies in favour of the people. The unity achieved through the countrywide general strike action on 7th September 2010 must be widened and cemented further through heightening the united action of the working class to make the government act.

The trade union movement of the country has now decided to intensify the protests to force the government to reverse the anti-people policies. The Central Trade Unions and Independent Federations have decided to mobilize the workers in a march to the Parliament on 23rd February 2011. THE WORKERS MARCH TO PARLIAMENT will be a clear demonstration that the workers of the country are determined to force the government to come out with solutions to the following five point charter espoused by the trade union movement of this country.

- 1) Contain the price rise and strengthen the Public Distribution System
- 2) Enforce labour laws
- 3) Create employment and link stimulus package to employment protection
- 4) Provide universal coverage for unorganised sector worker under Social Security
- 5) NO to disinvestment of profit making public sector

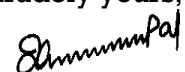
It is very encouraging to notice that all the Central Trade Unions have taken the mobilization for the March to Parliament as an urgent task.

Insurance employees being part of this collective voice are participating in large numbers and in the process they would voice their demand against the increase in FDI in insurance sector and for protection of the public sector insurance industry along with the other demands of the people. Insurance employees and agents are mobilising in a large number to participate in the March to Parliament. While the AIIEA units nearer to Delhi are mobilising the employees in a larger number, there would be representative participation from the other zonal units also. The President and General Secretary of AIIEA along with the President or the General Secretary of the Zonal Units and Office-bearer from the General Sector are going to lead the contingent of the AIIEA assembling at the Jantar Mantar which is nearer to Jeevan Bharti building.

The Diamond Jubilee Year 22nd Conference of AIIEA decided that while many comrades of AIIEA will be participating in the March to Parliament on the 23rd February 2011, the units across the country would hold lunch hour demonstrations on that day in solidarity with the workers marching at Delhi and in support of the demands raised in the March to Parliament. This would connect the whole insurance employees with those marching at Delhi.

ONWARD TO 23rd February 2011. The workers through this massive demonstrative action should force the government to take urgent measures to meet the demands put forth by the trade union movement.

Comradely yours,



General Secretary.