

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,

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF WORKERS CALLS FOR A TWO DAY NATION WIDE GENERAL STRIKE ON 20TH AND 21ST FEBRUARY 2013 AGAINST THE ANTI-WORKER POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

It was a clear indication of the growing unity among the trade unions in fighting the neo-liberal policies being pursued by the Government. Eleven Central Trade unions and independent federations/associations from various sectors came together and organised a National Convention of Workers at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi on 4th September 2012. The Convention was a massive success with a participation of more than 5000 delegates from all over the country. Delegates of the Central Trade Unions, namely, CITU, AITUC, BMS, INTUC, HMS, AIUTUC, TUCC, AICCTU, UTUC, LPF, SEWA and independent associations/federations of employees and workers were present in this convention. The Convention unanimously adopted a resolution announcing a two-day nation-wide general strike on 20th and 21st February, 2013.

A ten member delegation of AIIEA led by Com. V. Ramesh, Joint Secretary, AIIEA, Com. A.K.Bhatnagar, Joint Secretary, AIIEA and Com. Chacko Daniel, General Secretary, North Zone General Insurance Employees' Union participated in the convention.

A declaration was placed in the convention against the price rise, job losses due to economic downturn and disinvestment of profit making PSUs (Public Sector Units). The Convention demanded universalisation of social security rights for unorganized sector workers, ensuring proper minimum wages, assured pension for all, compulsory recognition of trade unions. The convention was also critical about massive contractualisation, rampant violation of labour laws and attack on trade union rights. The Convention also condemned the government's total indifference towards the miserable plight of working people who are instruments in keeping the economy moving. On the other hand the government is giving incentives to the rich and the corporate sectors. The government is continuing the implementation of the same neoliberal economic policies which are the reason for low economic growth. The convention also expressed its deep concern at the insensitive attitude of the government in not responding to the demands of united platform of trade unions. On these very demands more than 100 million of people participated in a massive general strike action on 28th February, 2012.

In this background, the National Convention of Workers reiterated the following five-point demand, formulated jointly by Central trade unions/federations.

1. Concrete measures to contain price rise
2. Concrete measures for employment generation
3. Strict enforcement of labour laws
4. Universal social security cover for organised and unorganized workers
5. Stoppage of privatisation/disinvestment of PSUs

Apart from the above, the convention also demanded:

- No contract labour of work of regular nature
- Minimum wage not less than Rs.10000 per month linked to price index
- Assured pension for all
- Removal of ceiling on payment and eligibility of Bonus, PF and hike in quantum of gratuity
- Compulsory registration of trade unions within 45 days/ratification of ILO Convention resolution of 87 and 98

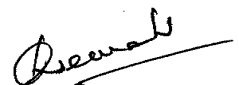
While introducing the declaration at the Convention, Shri B.N Rai, the General Secretary of BMS, called upon the workers to be prepared for the bigger struggles keeping aside the political affiliations. Sri G. Sanjeeva Reddy, President, INTUC was highly critical on the anti-worker policy of the government. He said that the government's policies are helping the corporate sector and leaving the working class to suffer under unemployment and price rise. He urged the working class of the country to fight against these policies. Com. Tapan Sen, General Secretary, CITU called upon the workers across the country to protect the unity of the trade unions in coming days to unleash bigger struggles against anti-worker policies of the corporates and government. Com. Gurudasdas Gupta, General Secretary, AITUC and leaders of other central trade unions also addressed the meeting. The national convention of workers adopted the following programme of action unanimously.

1. State/District/Sector level joint conventions during September, October, November 2012
2. Satyagraha/Jail Bharo/Court Arrest on 18th/19th December 2012 in all the States throughout the country.
3. March to Parliament on 20th December 2012
4. Country wide two days general strike on 20th and 21st February 2013

This convention further gave confidence to the Indian trade union movement to carry forward the struggle against the anti-people and anti-labour policies of the Central Government under the regime of neo-liberal policies.

AIIEA calls upon the insurance employees across the country to make all out efforts in coordination with the other unions/associations to make the programme of action including the two day strike action a thundering success

Comradely yours,



for General Secretary.

PS: Declaration adopted at the Convention is enclosed