

EAST CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
Jeevan Deep Buildings (First Floor), Exhibition Road, Patna-800001

Circular No. 01/2016

Date: 16.03.2016

To, All Members

Working Committee Meeting of ECZIEA at Patna Decides:
To Continue with the Campaign for Protecting Public Sector Insurance Industry
To Fight against the Transfer Mobility Policy of LIC
To Consolidate the Organisation at all Levels and
To Organise the 4th Conference of ECZIEA at Jamshedpur in the month of December

The Working Committee of ECZIEA met at Patna on 13 March 2016. The meeting was held in the background of the successful culmination of the wage revision struggle. The meeting noted with satisfaction that arrear payments had been made in all the divisions and employees were enthusiastically responding to the call for 4% levy. The meeting felt that the organization had to be consolidated at all levels.

The Working Committee was critical of the NDA government's moves to weaken public sector insurance industry. The announcement made by the Union Finance Minister in his latest budget speech on February 29 that FDI would be assigned a bigger role in the insurance industry and that public sector general insurance companies would be listed in the stock market came in for sharp criticism. It was the considered opinion of the meeting that when disinvestment of public sector in general was the declared philosophy of the current regime, insurance industry can never remain free from attacks. The meeting discussed the whole gamut of privatization policy of the government and called upon the employees to expose the designs behind it. There was a concerted attempt to defame public sector industries by terming all of them as unprofitable. The facts, however, speak otherwise. The Public Enterprises Survey 2013-14 tells us that out of 290 Central Public Enterprises in India 143 were profit making in 2004-05. Their number increased to 163 in 2013-14. Interestingly, the profits generated increased from Rs. 74,432 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 1,49,164 crore in 2013-14. The losses made in 2013-14 were to the tune of Rs. 20,055 crore only. Public Sector units as a whole were therefore making profits, not losses as claimed by the government!

The Working Committee felt that public sector insurance, LIC in particular, was an unmitigated success story. The government was however determined to destroy and destabilize public sector insurance. This was amply clear from the undue haste with which the Insurance Bill was passed in March 2015 with an intention to increase FDI from 26 to 49 per cent and privatize the public sector general insurance companies. The recent budget proposals asking general insurance companies in the public sector to be listed in the stock market was therefore an effort in that direction. Those battling for increased FDI used to say that additional capital to the tune of Rs. 50,000 crore would accrue once the bill was passed. But nothing of the sort has happened. The existing private players have only been benefitted by a pay off without any actual expansion of the industry. The meeting called upon the employees to take these developments to the people through widespread campaign. The Working Committee

also decided to campaign for the withdrawal of service tax on life insurance premium, demanding exclusive Income Tax Rebate for Life Insurance Premium under Section 80 (C) and on the demand of extending tax benefit for short duration policy contracts. The meeting has given a call to:

- (A) Organise at least one Divisional Level Convention in each Division; other section of workers/ officers/ Agents to be involved. This should be done before the Divisional Conference.
- (B) Organise one State Level Convention in each State Capital. Divisional Units within the territorial jurisdiction of a State are to co-ordinate.

The Working Committee resolved to fight the transfer mobility policy being mooted by the LIC management. Appreciating the stand of AIIEA on the issue, the meeting noted that there was absolutely no need to effect any transfer or mobility in LIC. What was needed was Recruitment to class III & IV cadres. The meeting called upon the units to solidify the organization at all levels and remain prepared for a struggle at the call of AIIEA.

It was felt that developing the ideological orientation of the comrades was the greatest need of the hour. The proposed all India level Trade Union Class at Bengaluru would be a step in the right direction, felt the meeting. It was observed that a second zonal level trade union workshop had also become overdue. We are happy to inform that IEAHD Hazaribagh has volunteered to host the next zonal level TU workshop. The dates etc. will be finalized in consultation with AIIEA leadership. The meeting took the following decisions on the question of Organisation :

- (A) Divisional Units to organize Trade Union classes for Branch leadership / activists on a regular basis.
- (B) Zonal Level class would be held at Hazaribagh, as noted above.
- (C) Divisional Units to complete divisional Conferences latest by 15th November 2016.
- (D) There has not been much progress on the issue of Online Petition Campaign demanding 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures. The Campaign has to be stepped up in right earnest.
- (E) **We are happy to inform that IEAJD Jamshedpur has shouldered the responsibility of hosting the 4th General Conference of ECZIEA. While extending revolutionary greetings to Jamshedpur comrades, the meeting called upon all units to extend all help and co-operation to IEAJD for successful conduct of the Conference.** The Date, Venue etc. will be finalized in due course of time.

All units in the zone are requested to implement the decisions of the Working Committee in letter and spirit. We are confident that our units will live up to the expectations of the organization, as have they done in the past.

With Revolutionary Greetings,

Comradely Yours

Shreekanth Mishra

General Secretary