

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
LIC BUILDING SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD 500 063
(E-mail: aiieahyd@gmail.com)

Cir.No.15 / 2016

11th August, 2016

Dear Comrades,

▪ **MAKE 2ND SEPTEMBER 2016 STRIKE TOTAL**

- ❖ **to DEFEND PUBLIC SECTOR INSURANCE INDUSTRY**
- ❖ **to SECURE ONE MORE PENSION OPTION**
- ❖ **to realize PROMISED ISSUES DURING WAGE REVISION**

The Working class across the country is making hectic preparations for the 2nd September 2016 nationwide strike a resounding success. The strike is in support of the 12 point charter of Central Trade Unions and a large number of industrial Federations and Associations. Despite the fact that the government was informed about the strike decision many months back, it has remained unresponsive and has refused to initiate any action to redress the grievances of the workers.

The All India Insurance Employees' Association has called the employees both in LIC and public sector general insurance companies to participate in this strike with full force. We are happy that all unions of employees and officers in general insurance have decided to join the strike. The AIIEA is very clear that the reckless drive of the government towards privatization of public sector has already reached the doors of the insurance industry. The government has decided to divest the shares of PSGI companies and GIC-Re in the current financial year itself. The government is already moving ahead with banking reforms to weaken the public sector banks. Voices are already heard in influential quarters that the government should take a decision to divest the shares of LIC too as recommended by Malhotra Committee. There is absolutely no justification to privatize these hugely profitable public sector units and to hand those over to the foreign and indigenous capital undermining the social purpose and social commitment for which the public sector is created. Therefore, the danger to our great institution is very real and we must defend our institution that is built through our sweat and toil.

The government has remained totally unresponsive to the genuine demands of the insurance employees. The demand for another pension option is pending for over years. Both LIC and GIPSA have sent their recommendations more than once for another option. The LIC and GIPSA have said that considering the number of employees who did not opt for 1995 pension scheme, the cost involved is not very big and the institutions are capable of absorbing the additional cost. Moreover, the government does not have to spend any amount on this. Why then the government is not accepting the recommendations of LIC and GIPSA? Is it not a serious undermining of the autonomy of these institutions and decision making process?

The government is not even approving the offers LIC and GIPSA made during the wage negotiations. The issue of 5 day week is pending for a considerable period of time. The LIC made this offer after approval of the Board. The other issues like accumulation of PL up to 270 days, paternity leave of 15 days, and ex-gratia in lieu of bonus for the year 2014-15 are still pending with the government. We do not see any reason other than the indifference and insensitivity of the government to the workers and their demands.

There are other demands like recruitment and absorption of the residual regular part time employees. These issues are pending for over years now. Therefore, we need to shake both the LIC and the government from the deep slumber they are in by making the 2nd September 2016 strike total.

The government despite protests from the working class is moving ahead with labour reforms to make them employer friendly. It has failed to tackle the deep agrarian crisis and the massive unemployment problem. Despite the tall claims of 7.5% growth the economy has not created any employment. Every month more than one million youth join the labour market and the government which promised 20 million jobs a year has totally failed. The government continues to remain adamant on the demand for a minimum wage and introducing social security schemes to the workers.

In this background, the workers are left with no choice but to strike back. Therefore, the workers, peasants, agricultural workers and other democratic sectors of the Indian society have decided to send a strong signal to the government to reverse the neo-liberal policies through the massive success of the 2nd September 2016 strike. We, therefore, request all LIC and PSGI employees to make the strike total.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. S. S. S.', with a horizontal line underneath it.

General Secretary.