ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
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Cir. No .2 / 2019	4th January, 2019

To

All the Zonal/Divisional/Regional/State Units,

Dear Comrades,

Two days strike on 8-9 January, 2019

The working class India will go on for a two day nationwide strike on 8th and 9th January 2019 against the anti-worker, anti-people policies of the NDA govt and force the reversal of anti-worker policies of the Central Govt. The Working class of the country has been demanding for a fairly long period of time for concrete measures for arresting rising prices of essential commodities, creation of decent and new jobs, minimum wage of Rs.18000/- p.m. and minimum pension of Rs.6000/- p.m., stoppage of sale of PSU shares, privatization of PSU through PPP and outsourcing, stopping of contractisation and casualization of jobs, waiver of farm loans, remunerative prices to farm products, scrapping of National Pension Scheme, expanding the defined benefit scheme of pension to all the employees, stopping of amendments to labour laws and strict implementation of existing labour laws, universal social security coverage and pension to all etc. All these are the legitimate and justified demands of the workers of the country. The workers organized a Mahapadav in Delhi from 9-11 November 2017 and the workers and farmers also organized a massive Kisan–Mazdoor sangarsh rally on 5th September 2018 in New Delhi in support of their demands.

The Government till today did not respond to the just and genuine demands of the working class. The Government has actually increased its aggression against the rights of workers, employees and trade unions. Wage negotiations in PSUs are not taking place and the Government is not giving clearance for commencement of wage negotiations. Unemployment situation in the country today is grave and severe. The fixed term employment policy would be death knell for job security. The increase in prices of essential items is burdening the day-to-day life of common masses. The after effects of demonetization and faulty GST have adversely impacted the lives of millions of working people. The Government has been aggressively pushing the labour law reforms and decided to amalgamate 44 Central Labour Laws into 4 Labour Codes which will be advantageous to the Corporates. In the name of universalisation of 'Social Security Code', Employees Provident Fund Organization, Employees State Insurance Corporation and many other welfare statutes are being dismantled. Privatization of all strategic PSUs that include defense production, Public Sector Banks and Insurance, Railways, public road transport corporations, oil, power, steel, coal etc is being done through disinvestment, strategic sale and outsourcing. FDI up to 100 percentages is allowed in many vital and strategic sectors. Farmers' unrest across the country is growing. The promised Minimum Support Price of 1.5 times of the cost of production to farmers is not being implemented.

The Public Sector Insurance Industry is under severe attack from the corporate lobbies and the Government. Efforts are being made by the Government to weaken nationalized character of the insurance industry. Disinvestment process has started in the General Insurance Industry with divestment of shares of GIC Re and New India Assurance Company. The Government is planning to merge the other three PSGI companies with the intention of listing the merged entity in the stock market. The demand for the listing of LIC and even privatization of LIC is being pushed by the corporate classes. The decision of LIC to buy the share of IDBI is being used to advocate the privatization of LIC.

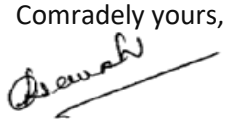
Many of the demands of the employees of LIC and PSGI companies are craving for solution. Wage revision for the insurance employees is due from 01.08.2017 and the charter of demands on the issue of wage was submitted to both LIC and GIPSA on 02.08.2017. Sixteen months have elapsed since then and even preliminary discussions have not taken place both in LIC and PSGI companies. The demand for final option for pension is pending for almost ten years. Though the Managements are willing to offer a final option for pension, the Government is unwilling to give another option for the defined benefit scheme saying the defined contribution scheme cannot be diluted now. Obviously, the Government is obstructing LIC and GIPSA in resolving the two important issues of wage revision and option for pension. The functional autonomy of LIC and the PSGI companies are being undermined and the Boards of LIC and PSGI companies are not in a position to take any decision on important issues of their employees due to the indifference and apathy of the government. Recruitment is another important issue which is pending for a very long period of time. Last recruitment in LIC in class III and IV cadres was held in 1993 and there is an urgent need for recruitment in the cadre of Assistant and Sub-Staff. Government policies are coming in the way of resolving these issues of wage revision, final option for pension and recruitment in LIC and PSGI companies.

We, the insurance employees should therefore join in the two day nationwide strike on 8th and 9th January 2019 to make a common cause with the important and legitimate demands of the workers and farmers of our country. We also should join in the two day strike for protecting the nationalized insurance industry and for the realization of our demands on wage revision, pension option, recruitment and other pending demands.

We appeal to all the employees to make the two day nationwide strike on 8th & 9th January a complete success.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,



General Secretary.