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**EAST CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION**  
**Jeevan Deep Buildings (1<sup>st</sup> Floor), Exhibition Road, Patna-800001**

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Circular No10/2008

Date: 03.12.2008

To,  
All members,

Dear Comrade,

Re: **Decisions of the ECZIEA Working Committee meeting (1)**

The Working committee of the ECZIEA met, as scheduled, at Patna on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The meeting was convened to report the decisions and deliberations of the AIIEA Secretariat meeting held at Hyderabad on 2-3 November 2008, to review the campaign in our zone against FDI hike in the light of AIIEA secretariat decisions, to review the flood relief work in Bihar and Orissa, as also to review other organizational developments in our zone.

To start with, the meeting observed a minute's silence in memory of Com. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, former General Secretary of the CPI (M) and an outstanding leader of the working class of India; Sri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, former Prime Minister of India; General Manekshaw, Com. Ramen Bhattacharjee, former Treasurer of AIIEA; Com. Ranjit Basu, Treasurer, CITU; Ajit Panja, former Union Minister; the Chief of the ATS Sri Hemant Karkare, eminent heart surgeon Dr. Michael De Bakey, Justice Y.V.Chandrachud, noted industrialist K.K.Birla, Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, eminent mathematician Tribikram Pati, noted playwright Vijay Tendulkar, freedom fighter of INA fame Laxmi Indira Panda, world famous South African poetess Miriam Mbeka, outstanding football player Peter Thengaraj, the hundreds of thousands of lives lost in Delhi, Assam and Mumbai blasts, the unprecedented flood in the states of Bihar and Orissa and the communal carnage in Kandhamal district of Orissa.

The working committee welcomed the leadership of the newly formed Bhubaneswar Division Life Insurance Employees' Association (BDLIEA) and the new General Secretary of Insurance employees' Association Hazaribag Division, Com. M.K.Prasad. Thereafter, Com. M.K.Prasad; Com. Sunakar Satpathy, General Secretary BDLIEA and Com. Rajesh, Acting General Secretary of Insurance Employees' Association Bhagalpur Division were co-opted to the Secretariat. Com. C.M.Haibru, Com. B.B.Nayak and Com. Smt. Swarna Mishra of the newly formed BDLIEA were co-opted to the working committee of the ECZIEA.

While discussing the **decisions of the AIIEA secretariat**, the working committee of the ECZIEA fully endorsed the decisions of the AIIEA secretariat and called upon insurance employees all over the zone to intensify the agitation against the decision of the government

to further liberalise the insurance sector. The working committee felt that the decision of the union cabinet to introduce a comprehensive legislation on insurance amending the IRDA Act, GIBNA and Insurance Act 1938 in the Rajya Sabha in the next session of the Parliament is totally a retrograde step. Through this legislation the government aims to hike the FDI limit from 26% to 49%, change the investment norms of insurance funds facilitating transfer of funds outside the country and privatize the four public sector general insurance companies. The working committee felt that rather than learning lessons from the global financial melt down the Government was bent upon exposing the Indian insurance industry to the speculative finance capital.

The decision of the Government to amend the LIC Act through a separate legislation to increase the capital of LIC from Rs.5crore to Rs.100crore came in for sharp criticism. While the LIC has an asset base of Rs.8,04,000 crore which is nearly Rs.1,17,000 crore more than its liability there was absolutely no justification for infusing additional capital. The decision of the Government to hike LIC's capital base is the first step towards privatisation of the most successful public sector financial institution in the country, felt the working committee. After an in depth and illuminating discussion **the working committee called upon insurance employees all over the Zone to go on a One-day strike in LIC on the day following the introduction of the Bill to hike the FDI limits. The meeting also called upon members to observe One-hour walk out strike in LIC on the next day of introduction of the Bill to amend the LIC Act to hike the capital base.**

The meeting made a detailed **review of the campaign programme undertaken all over the Zone** and felt satisfied that the campaign was fast picking up. Units all over the Zone were leaving no stone unturned to make the public contact programme an all round success .Our Patna comrades met Sri Jabir Hussain, RS MP (RJD); Sri Rajniti Prasad, RS MP (RJD); Sri Subash Prasad Yadav, RS MP (RJD); Sri Shivanand Tiwari, RS MP (JDU), Dr. Ezaz Ali, RS MP (JDU), Sri Ali Anwar Ansari, RS MP (JDU) and Dr.C.P.Thakur,RS MP(BJP). All of them appreciated our stand and assured to oppose the proposed legislation. Apart from meeting leaders of political parties, they are holding street corner meetings and distributing leaflets among the public. They had organized a massively attended Dharna programme in front of Patna Junction Railway station. A state level convention was organized in Patna on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008, which was addressed, among others, by Com. B.Sanyal, General Secretary CZIEA and Joint Secretary AIIEA. Apart from large number of insurance employees, leaders and members of other fraternal organizations also attended the convention.

A delegation of Hazaribag Divisional unit met Sri Yashwant Sinha, Rajya Sabha MP and former Finance Minister of India. After a detailed discussion with the delegation, he assured that he and his party would oppose the proposed legislation even though he did not agree with the totality of the arguments advanced by the AIIEA. The IEAHD also organized a convention at the coal city of Dhanbad on 26<sup>th</sup> November, which was addressed by Com.S.K.Bakshi, National Vice President of CITU, Com. Shravan Kumar and Com.

Shreekant Mishra., President and General Secretary of the ECZIEA. The Divisional level convention of IEAHD was organized at Hazaribag on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008, which was addressed among others by Com. Bhubaneswar Prasad Mehta, MP and Com. Shraavan Kumar. The People for India forum of Jhumri Tileya will hold a convention on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

Our comrades of Baripada and Jajpur Base committees accompanied by the leadership of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar divisional units met Sri Bhartruhari Mahatab, LS MP (BJD) and Member Standing Committee (Finance); Smt. Sushila Tiria, RS MP (Congress); Sri Bhagirathi Majhi, RS MP (BJP) and Sri Rama Chandra Khuntia, RS MP (Congress). While Sri Mahatab and Sri Majhi assured to oppose the bill if and when it comes, Smt. Tiria and Sri Khuntia assured to take up the issue at the appropriate party forum. This apart, the five units of AIIEA in the state of Orissa i.e. CDIEA, SDLIEA, BDIEA, BDLIEA and OSGIEA organized a state level convention at Bhubaneswar on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2008. While Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary ECZIEA initiated the discussion, Com. Janardan Pati, State Secretary of CPI(M) Orissa State committee; Com. Pravat Kumar Mishra, State Secretariat member of CPI; Com. Bishnu Mohanty, State Secretary CITU and Sri Narendra Kumar Swain, Secretary of BJD also spoke and assured their support. Leaders of a host of fraternal organizations also attended the convention.

A delegation of Sambalpur divisional unit met Sri Juel Oram, LS MP (BJP) and former union minister and Sri Mangala Kisan, RS MP (BJD) and explained the rationale of our opposition. Sri Oram appreciated our stand and immediately wrote a letter to the Prime Minister conveying his opposition to the proposed legislation. Sri Mangala Kisan assured to write a letter to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha in support of our demands. The SDLIEA organized a divisional level convention at Sambalpur on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008 and a convention at Burla on 29<sup>th</sup> November. This apart, a series of conventions have been planned all over the division. The conventions are to be held at Rourkela (7<sup>th</sup> December), Padampur (8<sup>th</sup> December), Bolangir (6<sup>th</sup> December), Kuchinda (10<sup>th</sup> December), Bargarh and Jharsuguda (13<sup>th</sup> December).

A delegation of Berhampur divisional unit met Smt. Renubala Pradhan, RS MP (BJD) and submitted a memorandum and note. She gave a patient hearing and assured to support our cause. The leadership of Jamshedpur divisional unit at Ranchi center talked to Sri S.S.Ahluwalia, RS MP (BJP) over phone (because he stays at Delhi) and explained the stand of AIIEA. He has assured to look into the matter. Jamshedpur divisional unit is planning a massive convention at Jamshedpur on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2008. Muzaffarpur division has planned to hold a convention at Muzaffarpur on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2008. While appreciating the efforts made by our divisional units thus far, the working committee called upon all members to further intensify the campaign before the commencement of the next session of parliament on December 10.

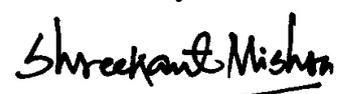
The working committee expressed satisfaction over the steps taken by AIIEA, especially the decision to go on Two-hour walk-out strike on 25 Nov, 2008, on the demand of immediate commencement of **wage negotiations** and noted with satisfaction the fact that the strike was a tremendous success in the Zone. The meeting felt that wage revision in LIC should be commensurate with the growth and productivity of the institution and it should be independent of other analogous institutions. The meeting drew immense satisfaction from the steps taken by AIIEA to settle other pending issues like cashiers' issue, mediclaim of RPT employees and enhancement of IEH loan.

While **reviewing the flood relief work** in the state of Bihar & Orissa the working committee thanked all divisional and zonal units of AIIEA for their overwhelming support and co-operation to the flood relief work. It was reported that in keeping with the glorious tradition of the AIIEA to work not only for the insurance employees alone, but also for the society at large Com. Shraavan Kumar, President ECZIEA and Com. Mithilesh Kumar Singh, Vice President ECZIEA immediately rushed to Bhagalpur. With the active support and co-operation of Com. Manoranjan Singh, President IEABD, Com. Bhola Rajesh, acting General Secretary IEABD and other comrades of Bhagalpur divisional unit they took up the relief work on a war footing. Com. Subodh Roy, former MP of the CPI (M) and the district committee of the CPI (M) extended tremendous support and co-operation all through. The relief work started in and around Naugachhia, Khairpur, Kadikuraia, Jhhau, Usman Jamaldipur, Nawtolia and Niranjana Nagar area. Since the hapless people of this locality were without food and drinking water for over a week, we took care to provide food items like Chuda (flattened rice), Gur, Sattu, Biscuits, and Baby foods, milk powder and clean drinking water. This apart, a truckload of old clothes sent from Patna was also distributed. Our units in Orissa did a commendable job by immediately coming to the rescue of the flood victims. They took up relief work in and around 42 mouza under Cuttack district, 22 Mouza villages i.e. Basandara, Ukundara coming under Jagatsinghpur district, Banki coming under Cuttack district, Garadapur coming under Kendrapara district. Saree, Towels, Note Books, Pen, Pencil, Eraser were distributed among the flood victims and the School children. Near about 1000 Sarees, 1000 towels & Note Books, pens, etc. were distributed. The people of the area appreciated our noble efforts. The working committee decided to expedite the relief operations by immediately supplying articles of day-to-day use to the poor and down trodden sections of the people.

Units are requested to hold General Body meetings in as many centers as possible and communicate the decisions of the working committee to our rank and file. We are issuing a separate circular on the decisions relating to developments in our zone.

With Revolutionary Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary