
EAST CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

Jeevan Deep Buildings (1st Floor), Exhibition Road, Patna-800001

Circular No.04/2010

Date: 06.08.2010

To,
All members,

Dear Comrade,

ECZIEA Secretariat Meeting at Patna gives a clarion call for: Membership Consolidation and Financial Consolidation

As scheduled, the Secretariat of the ECZIEA met at Patna on 1st August 2010 close on the heels of the final round of negotiations on wage revision at Mumbai from 19-21 July 2010. The secretariat, in fact, had been called on an urgent basis owing to the fast developments on the issue of wage negotiations. Secretariat members were informed of the emergency meeting through SMS from Mumbai itself while the wage negotiations were heading towards finality. Such being the seriousness of the background of the meeting, the ECZIEA requested AIIEA leadership to be kind enough to attend the secretariat meeting of ECZIEA and guide the proceedings. AIIEA agreed to our request and Com. Amanulla Khan, President AIIEA attended and addressed the secretariat meeting.

Grand Welcome to Com. Amanulla Khan:

This was Com. Amanulla Khan's first visit to Patna after being elected the President of the AIIEA in the Kanpur Conference. This visit assumed more importance as it came immediately after clinching a satisfactory wage revision in the most difficult circumstances. Naturally, there was tremendous enthusiasm amongst the rank and file of the organization to accord a hero's welcome to the President of the organization. In spite of the fact that 1st August 2010 was a Sunday, around 100 employees including a good number of comrades from general insurance sector had gathered in Jayprakash Narayan International Airport to receive and welcome Com. Amanulla Khan. As soon as he came out of the airport, he was welcomed in the midst of thunderous slogans and a large convoy of bikers escorted him to the divisional office. Com. Amanulla Khan addressed the volunteers in an impromptu meeting and narrated the glorious struggle of the AIIEA which was on the verge of clinching a satisfactory wage revision. He called upon the gathering to consolidate the gains made and strengthen the organization further so that we could protect public sector insurance from the incessant attacks of the ruling classes.

Sense of elation in the Secretariat Meeting:

The Secretariat made a dispassionate analysis of our struggle for a satisfactory wage revision and also our struggle to protect public sector insurance industry. After a brief initiation by the General Secretary of ECZIEA, Com. Amanulla Khan intervened in the debate and explained in the minutest details as to how and under what circumstances AIIEA framed its Charter of Demands and led the struggle from the front till its logical culmination. Explaining the rationale behind our demand for a 40 per cent wage rise, he said that the then obtaining political situation, growth of the industry and the strength of the organization propelled us to frame an ambitious charter. But the organization had to traverse a long distance from framing an ambitious charter to realizing a handsome and wholesome wage rise. AIIEA always believes that no struggle can be independent of the current socio-economic and political paradigm. This time around, the wage revision struggle drove this point home in clearer terms. The change in the political situation consequent to the ninth Lok Sabha elections had a profound impact on the attitude of the government towards the genuine demands of the working class. The government was slowly but surely acquiring dictatorial overtones. This was abundantly clear from the

manner the government tried to whittle down the struggle of the Air India employees by summarily dismissing fifty eight leaders of the striking employees without even bothering to issue charge sheets! Never in the past did the government intervene so brazenly in the wage negotiation process of the banking industry as it did this time around. The government had the temerity to bring down, in instalments of course, the wage offer in banking from 17.5 per cent to 13 per cent! We had to confront this arrogance of the government to realize our charter. The AIIIEA had been consistently maintaining that the stellar performance of LIC must be reflected in the wage offers and it should be commensurate with the growth and productivity of the institution. The forging of the joint front and launching of a well choreographed programme of action in the month of March 2010 elicited the desired response from the LIC management and the long stalled wage revision process began to pick momentum. The Secretariat agreed with the understanding of AIIIEA that the negotiations held on 19th and 20th July 2010 had to a great extent taken care of our demands and felt that the wage revision would not only be handsome but also wholesome when our desired improvements materialize.

In this context, the Secretariat gave a clarion call to the employees to further strengthen the AIIIEA and work selflessly towards financial and membership consolidation. A strong, vibrant and vigilant organization has fetched for us economic benefits and it will also ensure protection of public sector insurance- felt the secretariat. While drawing satisfaction from the fact that our struggle against privatization of insurance has brought rich dividends, especially in view of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance which has broadly agreed with AIIIEA's contention, the secretariat felt that we cannot afford to be complacent on this score. Quoting from the latest Swiss Re Sigma report on the world insurance market, Com. Amanulla Khan said that while the insurance market in the US and UK were decelerating (-15% and -12% respectively), the Indian market was showing a very healthy growth rate of 23%. A relatively young population, a booming stock market and a fast growing middle class coupled with a promising insurance market has made Indian insurance industry very lucrative for foreign players. The attack on public sector insurance, in the coming days, will therefore multiply- felt the secretariat. We cannot and should not lose the rhythm of struggle. Struggle has to go on, albeit modestly though for the present.

For our Struggle to be fruitful Success of 7th September 2010 all India Strike to be ensured:

The ECZIEA secretariat endorsed the decision of AIIIEA to join the one day nationwide industrial strike on 7th September 2010 as per the call of the national convention of workers against the anti people and anti worker policies of the UPA II government. The secretariat felt that the gains of the wage revision would come to naught if the unbridled price rise was not controlled. Similarly, the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee not to tinker with public sector character of LIC would be meaningless if the government policy of privatizing profit making public sector was not resisted. Ensuring all-round success of the 7th September all India industrial strike was in our interest, observed the secretariat. Divisional units all over the zone are requested in this context to coordinate with all striking unions and organizations in their area for ensuring historic success of the ensuing strike action.

The secretariat noted with satisfaction that the foundation conference of Begusarai divisional unit would be held on 12th September 2010. Leadership of all divisional units assured their all out co-operation for ensuring all-round success of the second general conference of ECZIEA at Cuttack from 9-11 October 2010. The secretariat also took a firm resolve to contribute in the best possible manner for the Diamond Jubilee Year conference of the AIIIEA at Delhi from 20-24 November 2010.

On to the Second General Conference of ECZIEA at Cuttack from 9-11 October 2010.

With Revolutionary Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary