
EAST CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

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

Circular No.06/2010

Date: 15.10.2010

To,
All Members

Dear Comrades,

**2nd Triennial Conference of ECZIEA at Cuttack from 9th to
11th October 2010**

**Hails the unprecedented Wage Hike clinched by AIEA
Calls for consolidating the organization numerically, ideologically &
financially**

**Calls for wide campaign to protect public sector insurance industry
Calls for consolidating the gains already made and march forward
with conviction**

A Conference of Confidence and Conviction

The 2nd Triennial General Conference of the East Central Zone Insurance Employees' Association (ECZIEA) was held at Cuttack from 9th to 11th October 2010 amidst unalloyed pleasure and boundless enthusiasm. Held in the historic city of Cuttack, the conference was also a historic one. Apart from delegates and observers of all divisional units under ECZIEA, a galaxy of leaders and guests attended and addressed the conference. The critical, dispassionate and cold blooded analysis of the past and the present for almost three days clearly laid a road map for the organization and gave invaluable inputs for charting out a bright future not only for the insurance employees but also for the working people of India at large.

Flag hoisting and placing of wreath at the Martyrs Column: The flag of ECZIEA was unfurled by the President of the organization, Com. Shravan Kumar, amidst thunderous slogans. Com. Shravan Kumar, followed by all the Secretariat members of ECZIEA and representatives of other fraternal organizations, placed wreaths at the Martyrs column and the conference got off to a start. The General Secretary placed the Report for and on behalf of the Working Committee in the morning session itself.

The colourful procession: At the outset, three songs, Vande Utkal Janani, Sare Jahan Se Achha and We shall overcome were presented. The Open Session was preceded by a colourful procession from LIC Divisional Office to the venue of conference, Kala Vikash Kendra. The delegates and observers apart, large numbers of employees from across Cuttack and Bhubaneswar division participated in the Rally. What is noteworthy about the procession is the participation of a large number of women comrades, all draped in sarees of the same colour and same make. The procession covered a distance of almost two and a half kilometers amidst the chanting of full throated slogans espousing not only

the cause of insurance employees or insurance industry alone but that of the common man as well. The serpentine procession, led from the front by Com. Amanulla Khan, President AIIEA, Com. K.Venugopal, General Secretary AIIEA and Com. V.Ramesh, Joint Secretary AIIEA, covered some important thoroughfares of the city of Cuttack before reaching the conference venue. It would be a truism to say that the grand procession presaged the grand success of the conference.

The Inaugural/ Open Session: The Inaugural cum Open Session began with Com. Shravan Kumar, President ECZIEA, on the chair. Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary ECZIEA welcomed the guests and gave a brief account of the organization and the context in which the second conference was taking place. The Chairman of the Reception Committee, Sri Jagannath Patnaik, former Chairman of the Bar Council of India and former Advocate general of Orissa state, welcomed the gathering and assured his fullest co-operation to our movement in the days to come. Sri P.Sainath, Rural Affairs Editor of The Hindu and Ramón Magsaysay award winner for Journalism, inaugurated the conference.

In his inaugural address, Sri P.Sainath termed the insurance employees' movement under the banner of AIIEA as the most radical and politically conscious. He spoke at length about the stark realities of India vis-à-vis the food security, farm crisis and glaring inequalities among the rich and poor. Giving a comparative figure as to why the rich in India are becoming richer and poor becoming poorer with each passing day, he gave some astounding figures of what would be happening in the country while the delegates attending the conference deliberate during the three day conference period: "During these seventy two hours of your deliberation, over 144 farmers in the country would commit suicide, 6500 farmers would quit farming, and 12,300 children would die due to malnutrition. But during this period Mukesh Ambani, the fourth richest person in the world would get a tax waiver of Rs.4,104 crore from the government of India." Commenting that the struggles against globalization are going to be intensely local, he called upon the members to continue their fight against privatization by making common cause with other toiling sections of the population.

Com. Amanulla Khan, President AIIEA, addressed the Open Session and gave a beautiful account of how public sector insurance industry was doing a commendable job even in the face of difficult challenges. He congratulated the employees for their stiff resistance to all overt and covert attempts to destabilize public sector insurance industry. He called upon the members to broaden and sharpen the movement against the policy of economic globalization by drawing inspiration from the struggle of AIIEA as also from the world wide struggles against the new economic order.

Addressing the Open Session, Com. K.Venugopal, General Secretary AIIEA, recounted the brilliant performance of LIC in the most trying circumstances and congratulated the employees for clinching a historic wage revision free from any conditionalities. He exuded confidence that the 2nd conference of ECZIEA would be a launching pad to strengthen the organization in the states of Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand. Com. V.Ramesh, Joint Secretary AIIEA, also addressed the Open Session and congratulated the employees for the splendid wage revision struggle. He called upon the members to strengthen the organization numerically and ideologically to fight the future challenges with courage and conviction. Com. Janardan Pati, Vice President CITU Orissa State Committee,

addressed the session as a Guest of Honour and spoke eloquently about the anti imperialistic traditions of the working class movement in India and called upon insurance employees to work relentlessly for upholding the cause of democracy, freedom and justice.

The delegates and observers were greatly enthused by the inspiring presence of Com. Chandra Sekhar Bose and Com. N.M.Sundaram, the veterans of insurance employees' movement. Even at an advanced age of 88 years, Com. Chandra Sekhar Bose enthralled the audience with his graphic description of the trying circumstances in which AIIEA was conceived, founded and developed as an organization. In his inimitable and professorial style Com. N.M.Sundaram spoke beautifully as to why and how AIIEA stands out as a militant and fighting trade union among the comity of trade unions.

The Open Session concluded with a formal Vote of thanks by Com. Managobinda Barik, General Secretary CDIEA and Secretary of the Reception Committee. In the end, a dance drama "Goutam Buddha" and "Sambalpuri Folk Dance" were presented by the Troupe of KVK.

The Delegates' Session: As mentioned earlier, the presentation of the Report by the General Secretary for and on behalf of the Working Committee had already begun in the morning session of 9th itself. The report reading resumed on 10th October morning. The Treasurer thereafter placed the Audited Statements of Accounts for the three year period ending December 2009.

The General Secretary's Report ridiculed the idea of those who dubbed the setbacks to socialism as End of History and went on to establish the global financial crisis as the beginnings of the End of Capitalism itself. Neo liberalism specialized in selling an illusion that the unfettered functioning of the commodity and financial markets constituted the best economic arrangement for a society. Now, that illusion stands shattered because of the global capitalist crisis. The Report lamented the fact that notwithstanding the serious repercussions of the crisis all over the world, the UPA II government led by the Congress Party is aggressively pursuing the anti people neo-liberal policies in India. The virulent attack on the life and living of the people, especially through the ever escalating rise in prices of essential commodities including food grains, came in for sharp criticism. The decision of the UPA II government to allow FDI in retail, defense and education sector was also discussed. The report discussed in great detail about the continuing efforts- overt and covert- of our rulers to destabilize and destroy public sector insurance at the behest of imperialism. In this context, the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2008 and the LIC Act (Amendment) Bill 2009 were discussed at length. AIIEA's successful struggle on the question of a satisfying wage revision bereft of any conditionalities was also discussed. Citing the Wage Revision as handsome, wholesome and unprecedented, the Report called upon the members to donate 4% levy to the AIIEA and strengthen the organization numerically, ideologically and financially.

The discussions on the Report were quite illuminating and enriching. Comrade A.P.Meher, Joint secretary ECZIEA and General Secretary BDIEA (Berhampur), initiated the debate. Thereafter, twenty five other comrades from across the zone participated in the debate. There was absolute unanimity on almost all the major issues projected in the Report of the General Secretary. Comrades Chandra Sekhar Bose, N.M.sundaram, Amanulla Khan, K.Venugopal and V.Ramesh addressed the Delegates

session also. While Com. Chandra Sekhar Bose narrated the landmark achievements that AIIEA had secured even in its formative years and exhorted the members to strengthen the organization in the coming days, Com. N.M.Sundaram dealt with some serious theoretical issues having a direct bearing on the life and living of the working people. He exhorted the younger generation to shoulder organizational responsibilities by honing their skills in different aspects of trade union organization. In his incisive and brilliant address, Com. Amanulla Khan opined that the ECZIEA had acquired the steely resolve of a mature organization within a short span of only three years as it had its baptism in the cauldron of struggle right from its inception. He explained in detail as to how the perpetrators of the global capitalist crisis were trying to shift the burdens of the crisis on to the shoulders of the working people. Com. K.Venugopal gave a brilliant exposition of AIIEA's struggle for protecting and strengthening public sector insurance industry as also the correct tactical line adopted for successfully clinching a very good wage revision. Lambasting the union government for their ill conceived moves to weaken public sector in general and public sector insurance in particular, he exhorted the members to remain in absolute preparedness for meeting any eventuality. He called upon the members to strengthen the organization in the states of Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand by taking the message of AIIEA to every nook and corner of the zone. Com. V. Ramesh came down heavily on the powers-that-be for mindlessly implementing the policies of economic liberalization unmindful of its disastrous consequences all over the world.

The General Secretary's Report and the Audited Statements of Accounts were unanimously adopted after the debate and the summing up of the General Secretary. While hailing the just concluded wage revision as historic and unprecedented the Conference gave a call for protecting and strengthening public sector insurance as also to consolidate the gains already made by consolidating the organization numerically, financially and ideologically.

Resolutions: The conference unanimously adopted the following Resolutions.

1. On congratulating AIIEA for the historic Wage Revision.
2. Defending LIC of India in the public sector and opposing FDI hike in Insurance.
3. On resisting Imperialist driven globalization.
4. Demanding Comprehensive Social Security Legislation for Unorganised Sector Workers.
5. On meeting the Challenge of Communalism.
6. Demanding Recruitment to Class III and class IV cadres in LIC and absorption of temporary employees.
7. Demanding Opening of more Divisions and Branch Offices.
8. Demanding Recognition to AIIEA.
9. Demanding Consolidation of the four Public Sector General Insurance Companies.
10. On Women: Demanding passage of Women's' Reservation Bill and its effective implementation.
11. On Strengthening the Left and Democratic movement.

Election of Office Bearers: The Conference unanimously elected the following comrades as Office Bearers of the ECZIEA.

President:	Com. Shraavan Kumar	Hazaribagh
Vice Presidents:	Com. Arun Kumar Paul Com. Mithilesh Kumar Singh Com. Rabi Narayan Mallick	Jamshedpur Patna Cuttack
General Secretary:	Com. Shreekant Mishra	Patna
Joint Secretaries:	Com. Amulya Prasad Meher Com. Hemant Mishra Com. Om Prakash	Berhampur Hazaribagh Patna
Asst. Secretaries:	Com. Managobinda Barik Com. Amit Kumar Maity Com. Trinath Dora Com. Rajesh Prasad Com. R.B.Raman Com. Akhilesh Kumar Dubey Com. Niraj Prakash	Cuttack Jamshedpur Sambalpur Bhagalpur Patna Patna Muzaffarpur
Treasurer:	Com. Sudhanshu Shekhar Singh	Patna

Apart from these Office Bearers, the Conference also elected the following comrades as Working Committee members of the ECZIEA.

Beguserai:	Com. Shiv Shankar Singh Com. Deepak Kumar	Berhampur:	Com. Kishore Ch. Mishra Com. Krushna Ch. Pradhan
Bhagalpur:	Com. Manoranjan Singh Com. Rajesh	Bhubaneswar:	Com. C.M.Haibru Com. Sunakar Satpathy(GS) Com. B.B.Nayak Com. Smt. Swarnalata Mishra
Cuttack:	Com. Abhaya Ku. Das Com. G.B.Maharaj Com. Smt. Kumudini Patra	Hazaribagh:	Com.Mahendra Kishore Prasad Com. Sumit Kumar Sinha Com. A.R.Tudu
Jamshedpur:	Com. P.K.Mukherjee Com. Apurba Dutta Com. Smt. Purabi Ghosh	Muzaffarpur:	Com. Santosh Kumar (GS) Com. Vilash Chowdhury Com. Raghavendra Kumar Com. Archana Kumari

Patna: Com. Vijay Ku. Verma
Com. B.D. Singh
Com. Manju Singh

Sambalpur: Com. Gadadhar Kuanr
Com. R.L.Dash
Com. Smt. S. Chatterjee

A Conference of Confidence and Conviction: Overall, the second triennial general conference of the ECZIEA was a conference of confidence and conviction. Comrades of Cuttack Division Insurance Employees' Association deserve special appreciation and kudos from all of us. Hundreds of volunteers worked day in and day out to make the conference truly memorable and historic. They left no stone unturned insofar as ensuring excellent arrangements were concerned. The massive financial contributions made by them speak volumes about their commitment to the cause of the organization.

The Conference felt that our struggle is an integral and inalienable part of the working people of India, nay the world. In the immortal words of Paul Robson "We are in the same boat Brothers". The conference felt that our main weapon is our Organisation and our main asset is our Unity. The conference took a firm resolve to protect it as the apple of our eye and strengthen it at all cost. And so shall we do.

With Revolutionary Greetings,

Comradely Yours

Shreekanth Mishra

General Secretary