

EAST CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

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

Circular No. : 07/2012

Date: 12.12.2012

To All Members

- **ECZIEA WORKING COMMITTEE DECIDES TO INTENSIFY THE CAMPAIGN**
- **LENDS FULL SUPPORT TO AIIEA SECRETARIAT DECISIONS**
- **3RD GENERAL CONFERENCE OF ECZIEA TO BE HOSTED BY BHAGALPUR IN 2013**

Dear Comrade,

The Working Committee of the ECZIEA met at Patna on 8-9 December 2012. Com. Shravan Kumar, President ECZIEA, was on the chair. The meeting was held in the immediate aftermath of the AIIEA Secretariat meeting held at New Delhi on 25 November 2012. Working Committee members from across the zone attended the meeting.

The meeting commenced after paying its respectful homage to the memory of greatest historian Prof. Eric Hobsbawm, former Prime Minister of India I.K.Gujral, veteran leaders of the working class movement Com. Dipankar Mukherjee and Com. N. Varadarajan, Former General Secretary of Guwahati divisional unit of AIIEA Com. Achyut Deka, noted satirist and actor Jaspal Bhatti, famous cine actor A.K.Hangal and all those who laid down their lives for the cause of the working class.

The General Secretary of ECZIEA made a detailed reporting on the decisions and deliberations of the AIIEA secretariat meeting held at New Delhi on 25 November 2012. The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2008, with its proposal to hike FDI in the insurance sector from 26 to 49 per cent and disinvest shares from the public sector general insurance companies, was the centre of the discussion. The meeting drew satisfaction from the fact that over 170 MPs had been met across India and hundreds of conventions had been held opposing the anti people measures of the government. Drawing heavily from the AIIEA secretariat meeting, the ECZIEA working committee felt that our campaign and movement had to go on irrespective of whether FDI was 26 per cent or 49 per cent. At a time when global finance capital wants unfettered access to the domestic savings of third world countries, it would be suicidal to think that FDI would remain restricted at 26 or 49 per cent in the Indian insurance market. It goes to the credit of insurance employees under the banner of AIIEA that they have successfully stalled the moves of the ruling classes to increase FDI in insurance for over eight years. The meeting questioned the rationale of FDI hike in insurance in the name of mobilizing resources for infrastructure development. The government should invite FDI into the infrastructure sectors directly if its heart really beats for development rather than routing the investment through the insurance sector, felt the meeting. Moreover, in view of the fact that less than 5 per cent of FDI has come to the infrastructure sector in the last few years, it would be futile to expect large FDI flows in the infrastructure sector. The meeting felt that FDI for infrastructure is a bogey to destabilize public sector insurance. The proposal in the Insurance Bill to allow public sector general insurance companies to tap the market for resource mobilization also came in for sharp criticism. The Working Committee reiterated its commitment to go for **one day Strike action in the event of the Bill being passed** in the Rajya Sabha in the ongoing Winter Session, in keeping with the understanding of AIIEA's New Delhi Conference, Mysore Working Committee meeting and the just concluded AIIEA Secretariat meeting at New Delhi.

The Working Committee noted with satisfaction that our units all over the zone had met around 20 MPs from different political parties and convinced them about the ill effects of FDI hike in insurance. Units were called upon to further intensify the campaign by leveraging our struggle with that of the retail traders who have been fighting against the entry of FDI in the retail trade sector. While divisional units were asked to chalk out their own innovative programmes, the meeting resolved to observe **19th January 2013 as SAVE NATIONALISED LIFE INSURANCE DAY**. The meeting felt that Agents,

Development Officers and Class I Officers should also be invited to join our campaign programmes. While appreciating the campaign already launched throughout the zone, the working committee suggested that **State Level Conventions** should be held on the specific issue of Insurance Reforms in the three states of Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand. As decided in the AIEA Secretariat meeting, our units were called upon to extend their all out co-operation and support to the AIEA units in the general insurance sector for the **Check Off** (Recognition) process underway in public sector general insurance.

The Working Committee took strong exception to the fact that in spite of AIEA enjoying overwhelming support of the employees in LIC, the management had not initiated any step to accord Recognition to AIEA. Furthermore, no concrete steps have been taken as yet to give one more option for pension, as assured by the management during the last wage negotiations. The meeting therefore appreciated the decision of AIEA to go for **One Hour Walk Out Strike preceding lunch recess on 22 January 2013** on these two demands.

The Working Committee made a dispassionate analysis of the prevailing economic and political situation. The back breaking price rise, high level of unemployment and rampant corruption among the high and mighty came in for sharp attack. Attack on public sector through the process of disinvestment and mobilization of resources to the tune of Rs.30,000 crore was also discussed. The meeting appreciated the fact that all the major eleven central trade unions have united against the hopeless anti worker and anti people policies of the UPA II government and given a historic call for **Two Day Strike Action on 20-21 February 2013**. The meeting made a firm resolve to make this Strike a huge success all over the zone and units were called upon to coalesce our activities with those of other progressive and democratic sections of the society. It was decided that ECZIEA headquarters would send campaign materials to the divisions in preparation of the coming struggle programmes.

The Working Committee gave a clarion call to **keep the organization in a state of absolute preparedness** in view of the series of struggle programmes in the coming months. It was felt that consequent to the fast depletion in strength of class III & IV employees in the industry, there was an imperative need to augment the quality of our cadres. The importance of trade union classes in general and classes particularly oriented to the needs of the new recruits were stressed upon. It was also felt that one more round of a zonal level **trade union class** with some advanced level of study materials had become absolutely essential. In this respect, the utility of **Insurance Worker Readers' Forum** was highlighted and the units were advised to start collections for **Insurance Worker subscription** at the increased rate of Rs. 120/- per member per annum w.e.f. January 2013. The meeting was reminded of the fact that each divisional unit had to mobilize at least one advertisement per year for Insurance Worker in order to ensure that the magazine runs on a self sustaining basis.

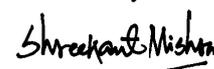
We are happy to inform that Insurance Employees' Association Bhagalpur Division (IEABD) proposed to host the next **3rd Triennial General Conference of the ECZIEA**. The Conference would be held sometime around September/ October 2013. The Working Committee appreciated the tremendous enthusiasm of the comrades of Bhagalpur divisional unit and pledged all-out support and camaraderie in the successful conduct of the Conference.

Comrades of Patna Divisional Unit I and II once again demonstrated their sheer organizational commitment in hosting the working committee meeting in a befitting manner. They left no stone unturned to make sure that the Working Committee meeting becomes a Grand Success.

Wishing You a Very Happy and Purposeful New Year.

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary