

EAST CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

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

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3rd General Conference of ECZIEA beckons:

Rise to Defeat Neo Liberal Onslaughts and Communal Polarization

Unite and Struggle for a Pro people Alternative

The 3rd General Conference of ECZIEA was organized from 29th September to 1st October 2013 at the historic town of Bhagalpur, Bihar, on the banks of River Ganges, with comrades from all the eleven divisions of Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha participating in great fervor and demonstrating abundant buoyancy and resilience of the youngest zonal unit of AIIEA. The Conference got the Midas touch by the inspiring presence of Com. K Venugopal, General Secretary, AIIEA; Com. B Sanyal, General Secretary, CZIEA & Joint Secretary, AIIEA and Com. V Ramesh, Joint Secretary, AIIEA; Com. Rathin Chakravarty, former Vice President, AIIEA; with a galaxy of leaders from fraternal associations and Central Trade Unions like Com. Arun Mishra, General Secretary, Bihar State Committee of CITU; Com. J.P.Jha, BEFI; Com. S.K,Sharma, AICCTU; Com. Dasarath Prasad, CITU and many others not just throwing their lot with our relentless struggles but solidly espousing the united struggles of the working class and the toiling masses of which AIIEA has all along been an integral part. The Conference echoed the sentiments and the yearnings of the common man for a better tomorrow.

The Majestic Rally and the Flag Hoisting

The conference got off to a colourful start with a majestic rally preceding the flag hoisting ceremony. Enthusiasm, vibes and commitment of the comrades were abundantly visible; and that too, in equal measure. The Rally at 3.30 in the afternoon on 29th September, 2013 from the venue, Town Hall, Bhagalpur, with the participation of more than 700 comrades in myriad colors and splendors and women comrades leading from the front winding nearly five kilometers in the town and with sky rending slogans focusing the demands of the working class and the absolute need to protect LIC OF INDIA in the public sector, nudged the town and its citizens from its slumber with greetings by fraternal associations en route to the venue of the conference on its way back adding to the confidence and strength of the comrades to surge and fight the offensives. A local traditional beat dance group neatly attired in local costumes matching the strides and rhythms of the rallyists and welcoming the comrades to the august programme was one of the novel features further bolstering the meaning and strength of the conference. **Com. Shreekant Mishra**, General Secretary, ECZIEA, just before the flag hoisting, while hailing the astounding efforts of the Bhagalpur comrades on the eve of the Conference exuded confidence that Bhagalpur Divisional Unit, while organizing the 3rd General Conference of the ECZIEA in the most befitting manner against heavily stacked odds had amply proved itself to be one of the fighting and powerful units of ECZIEA equal to meet any challenge and task. **Com. Shravan Kumar**, President, ECZIEA, unfurled the Red ECZIEA flag, amid chanting of unrelenting slogans "Long Live AIIEA, Long Live ECZIEA, Long Live Working Class Unity". He led the chorus "Red Salutes to Martyrs" in paying homage to the Martyrs by placing floral tributes on the beautifully decked Martyrs' Column. The leadership of AIIEA, ECZIEA, the Chairman of the Reception

Committee, fraternal associations, distinguished guests and comrades from all over the zone in tandem paid rich floral tributes to the martyrs invoking their sacrifices and contribution to the working class movements.

Inaugural-cum-Open Session

The Conference Venue (Town Hall) was decorated in the exotic and aesthetic fashion both inside the hall and outside in the premises, radiating fragrance and thematic expressions of AIIEA and ECZIEA. The platform of the Conference was named “**Com. Ram Chandra Nayak Manch**” after the name of the legendary leader of insurance employees and toiling people of the state of Odisha. **Prof. Chandresh**, an educationist of repute of Bihar and the Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcomed the delegates, observers and guests. In the course of his welcome address he heaped lot of worthies on AIIEA for its sustained campaigns and struggles over decades against the ongoing neo liberal economic policies being pursued by successive Governments since 1991, and more poignantly in the current dispensation of the Congress led UPA II. **Com. K Venugopal**, General Secretary AIIEA, in his inaugural address, while sketching a panoramic picture of the ills facing the Indian economy like the depreciating rupee, meltdown in stocks, and huge current account deficits, cautioned the comrades on the Government’s hell bent arrogance to push the Insurance Laws Amendment Bill as part of its FDI obsessed agenda to come out of the sinking and bleeding economy, an apparent attempt to perk up the sentiments of the business but in reality a move to serve the international finance capital , a promise it (GOI) gave to its overseas masters to redeem even risking its own survival. He outlined the stunning performance of LIC OF INDIA in the backdrop of a declining economy and plummeting insurance market all over the world and wondered why the Congress led UPA II is so desperate to hike the FDI in Insurance when the foreign partners themselves have bitten the dust. He took a dig at the reform-mania of policy makers of the Indian economy saying the move was a measure to destabilize and weaken the most successful public sector LIC OF INDIA. While welcoming the setting up of the 7th Pay commission for government employees, Com. Venugopal cautioned the employees to remain vigilant about the negative recommendations of the report. He gave a silver lining that Trade Unions setting aside party affiliations are converging on one platform to oppose the anti people and anti working class policies of the Government and citing the historic two day General Strike which has stirred the people like never before, called upon the comrades to organize for the “**March to Parliament on 12th Dec, 2013**” to mount pressure on the Government for course correction of the disastrous economic policies.

Com. B Sanyal, General Secretary, CZIEA and Joint Secretary, AIIEA, while being sharply critical of the bourgeois political parties’ oft repeated rhetoric that employees have no stake to be in politics, urged the comrades to do more working class politics to know who are our friends and who are class enemies. He poked fun on the high octane tango being played by Rahul vs. Modi buzz for the coming Lok Sabha elections as if to show that the country has no alternatives beyond the worlds of Congress-Rahul and BJP-Modi . He passionately called upon the members to shear this cul-de-sac phenomenon being dished out by the Corporate India. **Com. V Ramesh**, Joint Secretary, AIIEA, going a step further, pointed out that Modi has become the hot favorite and poster boy of the Corporate India. The communal record of the Post Godhra riots and shabby human development indices of Gujarat can never be brushed aside, said Com. Ramesh. Among others, who greeted the conference in the Inaugural Session and addressed animatedly on the dire necessity of forging the united struggles were **Com. Arun Mishra**, CITU, **Com. Dasarath Prasad**, CITU, **Com J.P.Jha**, BEFI, **Com. S.K.Sharma**, AICCTU, **Com. Anupam Dwivedy**, Bihar State Govt Employees’ Association, and a host of others, who while recounting the All India two-day General Strike on Feb 20-21, 2013 spoke of the anger and frustration of the more than fifteen crore people losing faith and trust in the ruling Congress at the centre and vehemently demanding alternatives to the current policies of Globalization, Privatization and Liberalization. **Shri A.K.Jha**, Sr Divisional Manager, Bhagalpur Division, greeted the Conference and wished its success as well. **Com. Shравan Kumar**, President, ECZIEA presided over the Inaugural cum Open Session and **Com. Shreekant Mishra**, General Secretary, ECZIEA extended profuse thanks to all the guests, leaders of fraternal

associations , and all those who supported the Conference in all possible ways for its all round success.

Delegates' Session

The Delegates Session commenced on 30th September 2013. **Com. Shreekant Mishra**, General Secretary ECZIEA, placed the Report for and on behalf of the Working Committee. **Com. Sudhanshu Shekhar Singh**, Treasurer ECZIEA placed the Audited Statements of Accounts for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012. After a brief spell and reply to the few queries raised by some comrades, the Audited Accounts were passed unanimously by the House. The discussions on the General Secretary's Report were initiated by **Com. Amulya Prasad Meher**, General Secretary of Berhampur Division and Joint Secretary of ECZIEA. Thereafter, 29 comrades from all divisional units including the convener of Zonal Women Sub Committee **Com. Smruti Rekha Sahoo** , Joint Convenor **Com. Purobi Ghosh** and **Com. A. R. Tudu** took part in the discussion on the Report. The quality of the debate and the understanding of the comrades spoke volumes about the commitment to the cause of the organization. Intervening in the debates, **Com. K Venugopal**, focussed on the industrial issues like Wage Revision, One more option for pension, Upgradation of RPTs, PLLI, Recruitment in Class III cadres, Compassionate Appointment, Cashiers selection/ Appointment, Service tax on Insurance Premium, etc and gave an update of the issues being pursued at the corporate level and urged the Divisional leadership to exercise more restraint and caution on sensitive extant issues like Compassionate Appointment. Seeing the tremendous outpouring of confidence, excitement, determination, and involvement of the comrades , Com K Venugopal termed the Conference as **"The Conference of Unity and Confidence"** . **Com. V Ramesh**, Joint Secretary, AIIEA, in his passionate address dwelt on the need to convert our struggles into the anti-imperialist political struggles to defend LIC OF INDIA in the public sector and he brought back the illustrious history of struggles of AIIEA which were unleashed in tandem with the united struggles of the working people at large. **Com. B Sanyal**, Joint Secretary, AIIEA, in his punch packed address called upon the comrades to be prepared for bigger tasks , especially the Lok Sabha elections and stressed upon the absolute necessity of diagnosing the difficulties of our demands, howsoever genuine they are, not being conceded by the authorities and the ruling parties. On the other hand, he urged our comrades to shed the delusion that all existing benefits would continue to remain as they are. Inertia, complacency, and megalomania (that for everything AIIEA 'hey na') are the fault lines and weaknesses that need to be plugged without any delay and doubt for the AIIEA always believes that struggle and struggle alone can coagulate the organization and its strength and no short cuts can save any situation to redeem the working class. **Com. Rathin Chakravarty**, former Vice President, AIIEA, greeted the conference and recalled the heady days of AIIEA and hoped that the AIIEA has correctly journeyed its way over a period of time without any drift in its ideological essence and wished its great future. **Com. Shreekant Mishra**, General Secretary, ECZIEA, while summing up the debate, came down heavily on the saffron brigade for their methodical and orchestrated attacks on the secular fabric tearing apart the communal amity of the working class and destroying their unity. He harked back to the days of Hitler when the Nazi forces set German Parliament Reichstag on fire and linked it to the Godhra communal riots of Gujarat in 2002. The repetition of this danger at this moment, the nation can ill afford to bear any more, Com. Shreekant made it loud and clear. In a clear message to the comrades, he unveiled the tasks before the organization and called upon the comrades to implement them whole hog. Among others, the tasks rolled out were: **accelerate our campaigns against the Insurance Laws Amendment Bill and the FDI hike in Insurance and if the Bill is passed despite stiff opposition, prepare for one day strike in protest immediately; strive for a satisfactory wage revision on the lines of the Charter of Demands placed by AIIEA to LIC Management; vigorously push the movements and build united struggles at the local level for resisting the anti-people policies, becoming a part of the left and democratic movements; intensify the struggles for a decisive role in the coming Lok Sabha Elections, defeating the divisive forces including majority fundamentalism and minority communalism; organize the organization through Trade Union Class and other forms of organizational activities, etc.**

Ten resolutions were passed unanimously and they related to : Against Imperialist driven globalization, Against The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill and the proposal to hike FDI in Insurance, Demanding Merger of the public sector General Insurance Companies, Against the ruinous Neo Liberal Economic Policies and for a Pro People Left and Democratic Alternative, Demanding Comprehensive Social Security Legislation for Unorganized sector workers, On the plight of women and for Women's Empowerment, Against communalism of all hues, Demanding immediate commencement of Wage Negotiations, Demanding Recognition to AIIEA and according legitimacy to the question of Industrial Democracy and Demanding Recruitment in LIC. The Report along with the General Secretary's reply to the points raised in the debate was adopted unanimously by the House.

The Conference unanimously elected a 48 member Working Committee of ECZIEA with **Com. Shraavan Kumar, Com. Shreekant Mishra, & Com Sudhanshu Shekhar Singh** as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively. **Com. R.N.Mallick, Com. Mithilesh Singh, and Com. Arun Pal**, after demitting the posts of Vice Presidents, spoke of their heady days in the past and hoped the Organization would grow stronger in future to take on the challenges. **Com Shreekant Mishra** thanked all the three doyens for their contribution and sacrifices to the growth of the Organization and expressed humble confidence that they would continue to guide the organization.

Nostalgic Felicitations

Setting the tone and tenor of the Conference and the benchmark, the Comrades of Bhagalpur Divisional Unit of AIIEA have in their solemn attempt to make it historic, memorable and alive and kicking , felicitated Prof. Chandresh, the Chairman, Reception Committee; Com. K Venugopal, Com B Sanyal, Com. V Ramesh, Com Rathin Chakraverty, Com. Mithilesh Singh, Com. Arun Pal, Com. R.N.Mallick, Com. Shraavan Kumar, Com. Shreekant Mishra and other Secretariat Members and all were found relishing the felicitations with emotions. Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary, ECZIEA, thanked the feisty leadership and comrades of Bhagalpur Divisional Unit for having organized the 3rd Triennial Conference of ECZIEA in the most befitting manner. As a gesture of goodwill, a computer system was donated to Bhagalpur divisional unit by the ECZIEA for more effective functioning of the organisation.

Com. Rajesh Prasad, General Secretary IEABD and Assistant Secretary ECZIEA proposed a vote of thanks.

It was a rare moment of emotion and bidding good bye, with comrades giving slogans "AIIEA Long Live, ECZIEA Long Live, 3rd General Conference of ECZIEA Long Live and Working Class Unity Long Live".

With Revolutionary Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary