

EAST CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

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

Circular No. : 09/2013

Date: 24.10.2013

To, All members

Cyclone "Phailin" ravages coastal Odisha Thousands left homeless and marooned Our Units in Odisha helping people rebuild their lives

A severe cyclone, named "Phailin", struck Odisha coast on the 12th of October with all its fury and ferocity. It brought in its wake torrential rains and wind speeds of over 200 kmph in the state. Tidal waves surged up to 3.5 metres and inundated several low lying areas along the coast. Though the intensity of the cyclone decreased after a few hours of its frenzy and wilderness, it left a trail of devastation hitting residential areas, shattering windows, felling trees and electrical poles, snapping electrical lines and terrifying residents. Darkness engulfed wide swathes of the coastal districts of Odisha including the state capital Bhubaneswar. We understand that even now, at the time of writing this circular, Berhampur city is in complete darkness. To add to the woes, as it were, heavy rain in the aftermath of the cyclone has triggered massive floods in several districts of Odisha. The situation in cities like Balasore is critical. Flood water from the rivers Budhabalanga and Suvarnarekha has inundated scores of villages. Nearly half of Baripada town, including the district headquarters hospital and our banker Axis Bank, in the adjoining Mayurbhanj district has been completely submerged. For the last three days (i.e. since 22nd of October) it has been raining incessantly as a result of which Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Berhampur and other areas in the coastal districts are facing untold miseries.

The state government had evacuated people before the cyclone. This could save a number of lives. But soon after going back to their respective villages, they found their homes and hearth completely destroyed. There was literally no place for them to live in. As they were beginning to pick up the pieces of their broken lives, came this heavy downpour. There is no home, no food, no water and no help! People have been left to the mercy of nature.

True to the traditions of the great AIIEA, our comrades in Odisha have risen to the occasion. Rather than bothering about their own troubles, they have pooled resources and have started relief works in a big way. Since Berhampur and the adjoining areas are the worst affected, naturally our Berhampur divisional unit has taken the lead. Other units in Odisha viz; Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur and the Odisha State General Insurance Employees' Association have extended financial help to Berhampur unit. In spite of being greatly affected, our comrades of Bhubaneswar division have not only given financial assistance to Berhampur, but the BDLIEA itself has undertaken relief measures in a big way.

Berhampur comrades have distributed relief materials (like rice, dal, cooking oil, potatoes, candle, matchstick etc.) in villages like Nua podampeta, Khatia-Ramchandrapur, Baliarsinghpali, Hinjalapali, Terapantha, kalyanpur, Chandanpur etc.

They have till now covered 870 households of about 3000 people. The relief work is going on, but inclement weather is creating some hurdles. Similarly, comrades of Bhubaneswar division have reached one of the worst affected areas Sanapatana near Chilka lake under Krushnaprasad block of Puri district and they have distributed Chura (flattened rice), other eatables and Mosquito nets (Machhardani) among 200 affected families. This is the social commitment of our units and our comrades! We are proud of what they are doing in these trying times, guided as they are by the ideological moorings of the AIIEA. While congratulating our units for the splendid job, we assure them of all possible help and co-operation.

With Revolutionary Greetings,

Comradely Yours

Shreekanth Mishra

General Secretary