

EAST CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
Jeevan Deep Buildings (First Floor), Exhibition Road, Patna-800001

Circular No. 01/2015

Date: 22.01.2015

To, All Members

SECOND WOMEN'S CONVENTION OF ECZIEA AT SAMBALPUR ON 25TH JANUARY

The 2nd Women's Convention of East Central Zone Insurance Employees' Association is being held at Sambalpur (Odisha) on 25th January 2015. Woman delegates from across the eleven divisional units of ECZIEA will attend this Convention. The Convention will be inaugurated by Com. M. Girija, Joint Secretary, All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA). Com. Girija- it may be noted- is the first woman comrade in the history of AIIEA to have been elected as a Joint Secretary of the all India Secretariat. Our comrades of Sambalpur division, particularly women comrades of SDLIEA, are making all-out arrangements to make the convention a memorable one. We have been receiving reports of tremendous enthusiasm amongst our women comrades all over the zone in the matter of the Convention.

The Second women's convention of ECZIEA is being held after a gap of almost two and a half years since the first convention held at Bhubaneswar on 24 June 2012. Significant developments have taken place all over the world since then. India has reverberated with cries for women's emancipation, in the interregnum. Our own industry has faced a turbulence of huge dimensions. It would be appropriate therefore for our comrades to join issue with and take positions on these developments. This primarily would be the task before the Convention.

The state of women in our societies is deplorable. Like many countries and societies women in India also continue to be treated as second class citizens. Women and girls in a household typically get to have their first taste of inequality in terms of diet, nutrition, access to health and education, and very often in the matter of asserting their reproductive rights. Women continue to endure unacceptable discrimination and violence. The acts of violence include sexual harassment, abduction, dowry tortures, domestic violence, outrage on modesty etc. A global poll conducted by Thomson Reuters in 2011 declared India 'the fourth most dangerous country' in the world for women, with high levels of female infanticide and sex trafficking. Increasing commodification of women as an offshoot of liberalization has contributed in no small measure to the violence against women. Gender discrimination is rampant in India. It has taken the form of preference for male child. Female children naturally have to face the worst form of discrimination. The neo liberal regime has given rise to increasing casualization and contractualisation of women's work. Women in the unorganized sector are the most exploited. Migrant women workers and rural women have had to face cruelty of the worst kind. Rather than giving genuine empowerment to women for ameliorating their pitiable living conditions, the ruling classes have been dragging their feet on the question of providing 33% reservation to women in State Assemblies and Parliament. The 2nd Women's Convention of ECZIEA will certainly deliberate upon these issues and guide the organization.

With the BJP government firmly in saddle, what we see in operation today is the worst form of saffron neoliberalism and religious obscurantism. Needless to add, the worst sufferers of the skewed policy priorities would be women. This has been manifestly clear from the attempts of the BJP government in Rajasthan and the central government to amend the labour laws in favour of the capitalist class. The decision of the union government to amend the Factories Act and force women to work in night shifts is rather portentous. The attempts to impose patriarchal values by important functionaries of the government have raised serious doubts about the character of the ruling dispensation.

The Convention will also address itself to the task of issues confronting the insurance industry and insurance employees. Ever since the Modi Sarkar assumed power, the insurance industry has been under fierce attack. The government is all set to pass the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill providing for FDI hike in the insurance industry and disinvestment of shares from the public sector general insurance industry. The other issue that is crying for attention of the management is the question of wage revision. The convention will most certainly discuss this issue and help chalk out strategy to meet the twin challenges of protection of public sector insurance industry and clinching a good wage revision.

The ensuing women's convention is the first major organizational activity of our organization in this New Year. We are absolutely confident that the convention will not only be a landmark organizational achievement in the New Year, it will also energize and invigorate our women comrades to shoulder higher responsibility of the organization in the days to come. With this confidence, let's March On to the 2nd women's convention at Sambalpur on 25th January 2015.

With Revolutionary Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary