

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

**Circular No. 02/2015**

**Date: 29.01.2015**

To, All Members

**2<sup>ND</sup> WORKING WOMEN'S CONVENTION OF ECZIEA- A GRAND SUCCESS**

As scheduled, the second working women's convention of ECZIEA was held at Sambalpur on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015. 122 delegates from across the east central zone attended the convention. Com. M.Girija, Joint Secretary AIIEA, inaugurated the convention. There was a lot of excitement and enthusiasm among the women comrades attending the convention.

The convention got off to a colourful start with the soulful rendition of an Opening Song by the all-women cultural troupe of Sambalpur Divisional unit. While welcoming the delegates to the convention, the opening song gave a clarion call to fight for women's emancipation. A presidium consisting of Com. Purobi Ghosh (Jamshedpur), Com. Manorama Mohanty (Cuttack) and Com. Manju Singh (Patna I) conducted the proceedings of the convention.

The General Secretary of ECZIEA welcomed the gathering and gave a brief account of the backdrop against which the second women's convention was being held. Thereafter, Com. M. Girija, Joint Secretary AIIEA, inaugurated the convention. In her inaugural address spanning over an hour, she spoke eloquently about the different facets of exploitation of women. She ridiculed the idea of globalization and the world having been a global village. She said that the process of neo liberal globalization had only added to the woes of women by portraying woman as a commodity, rather than as human beings. The so called development under the aegis of capitalism had exacerbated the problems of working women rather than ameliorating their living conditions, averred Com. Girija. Giving a clarion call to fight against all forms of class and caste exploitation, she made a fervent appeal not to be taken in by the vicious communal propaganda of the rulers. Empowerment of Women was the only solution to the multiple problems of women, said Com. Girija and implored the women employees to fight relentlessly against FDI hike in insurance and disinvestment of public sector general insurance industry by forging broader unity with other sections of the toiling masses. She exuded confidence that the women comrades under the banner of ECZIEA would march ahead with confidence in the days to come.

The Convenor of the Women's Sub Committee of ECZIEA, Com. Smrutirekha Sahoo, placed the Approach Paper of the Convention. The Approach Paper dealt with the multifarious problems confronting women. Issues like gender discrimination, sexual harassment, domestic violence, growing preference for male child, female infanticide, dowry related torture, increasing commodification of women under globalization, FDI hike in insurance, wage revision etc. were focused in the approach paper.

Com. Sanghamitra Sarangi of Sambalpur division initiated the discussion on the Approach Paper. Altogether eleven women comrades participated in the discussion. The discussion was very lively and encouraging. It spoke of the advancement made by our women comrades since the first women's convention held in 2012. Com. Girija again intervened in the debate very briefly and showered praises on our women comrades for their tireless efforts in building the organization. She suggested that our women comrades should come out of the four walls of the insurance industry and make common cause with other sections of the toiling masses.

Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary ECZIEA, summed up the debate and said that working women's movement was in for new challenges because of the patriarchal values being propounded by the current ruling dispensation. Saffron Neo Liberalism being the guiding

principle of the BJP led NDA government at the centre, working women's movement had to be attuned to fighting both saffronisation and neo liberalism, felt Com. Mishra. He was of the view that no trade union could aspire to grow without the active participation of the women workers.

The Convention unanimously adopted the following 11 resolutions:

1. Demanding special leave for menopause related problems for women employees
2. Demanding Child Care leave for women employees
3. Demanding 33% reservation for women in decision making bodies and urging the central government to enact 33% Reservation Bill
4. Opposing the Neo Liberal policies which are anti people and anti- women
5. Resolving to protect Public sector LIC and urging the central government to withdraw the Insurance Ordinance
6. Demanding the government to ensure implementation of laws enacted to protect women and children from sexual harassment
7. Opposing the amendments to the Labour Laws, in particular to the Factories Act, which paves the way for the working of women in Night Shift
8. Against Price Rise
9. Condemning the depiction of women in demeaning manner in the media
10. Recruitment to Class III & IV cadres in LIC; Regularisation of the residual part time employees
11. Demanding One more option for Pension

The convention also unanimously decided to take up the following important organizational tasks:

- i) To Observe International women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015 throughout the zone. Apart from holding conventional meetings, seminars etc. women's sub-committees of every divisional unit should undertake some social work among the underprivileged people.
- ii) To constitute 'Media Response Committee' in all divisional units, which will be all women committees. This committee will respond to women's issues and other socio-economic-political issues through the media.
- iii) To constitute Cultural Troupes in the divisional units consisting of women employees.
- iv) To conduct trade union classes on women specific issues at all levels of the organization.

The Convention unanimously elected Com. Smrutirekha Sahoo of Bhubaneswar division as the Convenor of the women's sub -committee. Com. Purobi Ghosh of Jamshedpur, Com. Manorama Mohanty of Cuttack and Com. Manju Singh of Patna I were elected as the Joint convenors. The convenor, Joint Convenors and the divisional convenors of women's sub-committees of all divisional units will together form the Women's Sub- Committee of ECZIEA.

Com. Sonali Chatterjee of Sambalpur division proposed the customary vote of thanks. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Women's Convention of ECZIEA was a huge success in terms of attendance, quality of the debate, level of enthusiasm and sense of camaraderie. Comrades of SDLIEA Sambalpur gave a very good account of their organizational abilities and commitment by hosting the event in a splendid manner. The eleven divisional units of ECZIEA should now help the women comrades realise their true potential in the days ahead.

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours

*Shreekanth Mishra*

General Secretary