

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

Circular No. 03/2015

Date: 19.02.2015

To, All Members

DECISIONS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING OF ECZIEA

The working committee of the ECZIEA met at Hazaribagh on 15-16 February 2015. This meeting came close on the heels of the AIEA Secretariat meeting at Ahmedabad on 4-5 February. Meeting in the background of the NDA government undemocratically issuing an ordinance to give effect to the Insurance Bill and wage discussions in LIC on 24th January 2015 and 11-12 February 2015, the meeting was naturally quite significant.

The meeting noted that the economic crisis which haunted the world in 2008 was not yet over. The world was still reeling under the impact of recession. Global real GDP grew by 2.5 % in 2013 against the last decadal growth rate of 2.8%. Economic growth in advanced markets was 1.3 % with the US economy slowing to 1.9% from 2.8% in 2012. Western Europe had registered a somewhat low growth of 0.3%. The continued slowdown not only inflicted instability to the world economy but also increased the inequality among and within nations.

The meeting was of the opinion that the nine month old Modi led BJP government is more neo liberal than its predecessor Congress led UPA government. The centrality of its development policy is based on Foreign Capital. In its eagerness to attract foreign capital at any cost, the government is prepared to go to any length to appease foreign capital. In a bid to appease foreign capital in its pursuit of garnering greater profits, it is trampling upon the democratic rights of the working people. The government is therefore not only neo liberal, it is also authoritarian. The issuance of nine ordinances in a span of eight months is a testimony to this authoritarian mindset, felt the working committee. Health care spending has been cut by a whopping 20%. Rail travel has become costlier. Dismissal of labour has been made easier. Women are made to work in night shifts. Communal mobilization has been rampant. Not a day passes without there being an attack against the minority community. Those who voted BJP to power are now slowly realizing that they have become mere tools in further enriching the already super rich, asserted the meeting. The meeting was also of the firm view that the people, the trade unions and the progressive movement of the country had to rise to the occasion to protect communal harmony and national unity.

The meeting was of the considered opinion that public sector insurance, particularly LIC, was doing reasonably well in a difficult macro- economic situation. LIC continues to be the market leader in spite of the machinations against it. The meeting severely criticized the NDA government at the centre for undemocratically issuing the Insurance Ordinance immediately after the winter session of Parliament. It was decided to mobilise public opinion in a big way against this ill-conceived move. There was an urgent need to address the genuine concerns of the field forces as also to introduce new products in sync with the current market trends, felt the meeting. The meeting unanimously decided to campaign for protecting and strengthening LIC in the public sector and urged upon the members to take the help of the field forces in this struggle by extending solid support to them in the discharge of customer servicing. The meeting underscored the need of struggle to secure a good wage revision and agreed with the understanding of AIEA that wage revision had to meet the aspirations of the employees and had to be free from any conditionality. Any effort to mechanically impose the parameters of analogous institutions would be stoutly opposed, resolved the meeting.

While welcoming the decisions of the AIIEA secretariat meeting and reiterating its firm resolve to implement these decisions with conviction in the entire zone, the working committee of ECZIEA made a fervent appeal to observe the following programmes:

1. Ensuring all-round success of the **Two Hour Walk Out strike (on 23rd February 2015)** before lunch recess on the demands of early, unconditional wage revision; one more option for pension and recruitment to class III & IV cadres in LIC.
2. **One Day Strike in March 2015** if there is no progress on wage revision and if there is no change in the management attitude.
3. **One Day Strike** on the day following the passage of Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill.
4. Demonstration in front of all offices on **26th February 2015** in support of the Jail Bharo programme of the Central Trade Unions.
5. Massive campaign all over the zone against FDI hike; thrust of the campaign should be **“Save with LIC, Secure your Future”**. Sincere efforts be made for enlisting the support of the field forces.
6. Special meetings, Seminars and Conventions should be arranged on the issue of protecting our national unity and integrity.
7. Each divisional unit should take steps to celebrate **“International Women’s Day”** on 8th March 2015 exclusively under the banner of the respective women’s subcommittee of the division. Wherever women’s subcommittees have not been formed, divisional unit should organize it by involving women comrades. It is to be ensured that some charity work is also taken up among the underprivileged sections, apart from conventional meetings etc.
8. Each divisional unit should form a **Media Response Committee** to take up issues with the print and electronic media. Efforts should be made to entrust this job to the divisional level women’s sub-committee.
9. Efforts should be made to form **Cultural Committees** in every division. Here also, participation of women comrades is to be ensured.
10. The meeting resolved that AIIEA headquarters be requested to give an opportunity to ECZIEA to host the next **Working Committee meeting of AIIEA at Bhubaneswar**.
11. Given the precarious funds position of **Insurance Worker**, each divisional unit has been asked to procure at least One Half Page Advertisement in a year to augment the funds position.
12. Divisional units were requested to conduct **Trade Union Classes** for their cadres at regular intervals, with a specific orientation to develop cadres for the future.

Comrades of Insurance Employees Association Hazaribag Division (IEAHD) organized the working committee meeting in a splendid manner. There was an impressive employees’ meeting in the evening of 16th February where apart from our members; Agents, Officers and Development Officers were present in large numbers. The working committee, its meticulous organization and the enthusiasm in the employees meeting all pointed to the fact that our comrades are battle ready. Let’s prepare to march on.

With Revolutionary Greetings,

Comradely Yours

Shreekanth Mishra

General Secretary