

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

Circular No. Special/2016

Date: 21.11.2016

To, All Members

**ONTO THE 4TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF ECZIEA AT
JAMSHEDPUR
FROM 8-10 DECEMBER 2016**

The 4th triennial General Conference of East Central Zone Insurance Employees' Association (ECZIEA) is set to start from 8th December 2016 at Jamshedpur. The Conference will conclude on 10th December 2016. The host unit i.e. Insurance Employees' Association Jamshedpur Division (IEAJD) is leaving no stone unturned to make the Conference truly memorable and successful. Preparations are underway to make sure that the delegates and observers coming from across the zone have a comfortable stay and a congenial atmosphere.

The ball has been set rolling with the formal constitution of a Reception Committee on 10th of this month. A noted academic of Jamshedpur city, Prof. Dr. Shukla Mohanty, currently Principal of Jamshedpur Women's College has been unanimously chosen as the Chairperson of the Reception Committee. We are confident that our association with an academic of her stature will certainly be of immense value to our movement. Sri Ratnakar Pattnaik, Sr. DM of LIC Jamshedpur Division has been chosen as the Patron. Among other dignitaries who are a part and parcel of the Reception Committee are- Com. Geeta Jha (Jharkhand State Janwadi Mahila Samiti), Com. Arun Kumar (NFIFWI), Com. Basudeo Panigrahi (Jharkhand State Non Gazetted Employees Association), Com. Subhashis Bhattacharjee (SBISA), Com. V.K.L. Das (CITU), Com. Tapas Chhotrai (SE Railway), Sri Phudan Murmu (Advocate), Sri Ashok Kr. Roy (Federation of LIC C I I Officers Association), Com. S.D. Joshi (FMRAI), Com. S. K. Dasgupta (BEFI), Com. K.K. Tripathy (TISCO Karmchari Union), Sri Anil Kumar Gupta (LIAFI), Sri Deep Narayan Prasad (LICAOI), Com. Ratnesh Ratna (AIPEU), Sri Mahesh Prasad (SC/ST LIC employees welfare Association), Sri Sanjay Kumar Mukhi (WALIC) and many more comrades from different fraternal organisations. The Reception Committee has given unconditional assurance to extend its all-out co-operation for the smooth conduct of the conference.

Comrades, this conference is being held at a very difficult point of time. Neo liberal globalization has wrought havoc on the lives and livelihoods of working people all over the world. Global capitalism has not yet been able to recover from the crisis that started in 2008. Recovery is nowhere in sight. The IMF economic outlook for 2016 describes global economic performance as 'too slow for too long'. The World Bank too has painted a gloomy picture of the global economy. Workers have had to pay a heavy price in the name of austerity. Joblessness has increased manifold. There is all-round penury and deprivation. This has led to dramatic increase in inequalities among people within countries. The national income share of the poorest 50% of the population has contracted almost everywhere, while the share of the richest 1% has risen rapidly everywhere. There has been a stagnation in real incomes of blue collar and white collar workers in rich countries. In the US, there has been no increase in real wages since the early

1970s for almost 90% of the workforce. The share of wages in national income has fallen in both rich and poor countries. This unpleasant situation has been utilized to the hilt by the right wing reactionary forces, posing still greater challenges to the working people.

The situation is no different in India. We have a corporate communal alliance in power. Saffron neo liberalism is at full play. Aggressive pursuit of neo liberalism, no-holds-barred communal polarization and growing authoritarianism have been the hallmarks of the present dispensation. Privatisation of public assets has become the avowed state policy. Workers are nowhere in the policy framework of this government. The less said about the plight of farmers the better. The rising crescendo of farmer suicides is only being matched by an arrogant display of governmental apathy. The entire nation today stands desolate and dejected. The historic success of the 2nd September 2016 Strike was a testimony to this. Rather than heeding to the genuine demands of the people, the government is indulging in diversionary tactics. Unity of the people is in peril.

Insurance industry is also passing through tumultuous times. With the passage of the Insurance Laws Amendment Bill permitting 49% FDI in private insurance companies, a process of consolidation has started. However it goes to the credit of public sector insurance industry, particularly its workers that LIC continues to maintain a lion's share of the market. With justifiable pride we can say that as of 15th November 2016 LIC has mobilized combined First Premium of Rs. 70,289 cr registering a growth of 59.47%. The uncompromising struggle against privatization under the guidance of AIEA has today given us the opportunity to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee year of LIC. The struggle also helped us in clinching a spectacular wage revision in an otherwise hostile environment. The government management combine are bent upon fomenting trouble in the industry by unnecessarily bringing in the Transfer and Mobility Policy in the name of curbing corrupt practices. The Conference has to decide the future course of action in this regard. The question of Recruitment and One final option to join the 1995 Pension Scheme have not yet been resolved due to governmental apathy. The employees having given their best for the all-round development of LIC naturally aspire for a gift in the Diamond Jubilee Year of LIC. But till now, that has not been acceded to. The upgradation of some RPT employees who could not be upgraded last time is yet another important issue that is lying unresolved. The organization will definitely chalk out its strategy to meet the future challenges.

Comrades, we are conscious of the fact that workers cannot be free from challenges in a class divided society like ours. But the real challenge today is how to preserve our unity and ideological cohesion in the midst of mounting attacks on the very consciousness of the workers. The organization must therefore remain in a state of absolute preparedness so as to thwart all challenges and march ahead with confidence and conviction. The 4th General Conference of ECZIEA will definitely take up these issues.

With Revolutionary Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary