

EAST CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
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www.ecziea.org

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To, All Members

Decisions of the ECZIEA Secretariat Meeting held at Patna on 7th March

The Secretariat of the ECZIEA met at Patna on 7th March 2018, close on the heels of the AIIEA Secretariat meeting at Patna on 5th and 6th March 2018. The fact that a meeting of the AIIEA Secretariat could be successfully organized at Patna for the first time after formation of ECZIEA imparted a new sense of confidence and satisfaction to the ECZIEA secretariat. To begin with, the ECZIEA secretariat meeting profusely thanked the comrades of Patna Division I and II and comrades of Bihar Jharkhand State General Insurance Employees' Association for successfully hosting the AIIEA secretariat meeting at Patna.

The ECZIEA Secretariat endorsed the decisions and understandings of the AIIEA Secretariat. The meeting discussed the prevailing political and economic situation in great detail. The meeting felt that the obtaining political situation was very much hostile to the working class. The guiding economic philosophy of the present-day rulers was also equally hostile to the public-sector institutions. The meeting felt that public sector financial institutions would be subjected to greater and intensified attacks in the days to come. The obnoxious stance of the ruling classes was crystal clear in the manner the PSU bank employees were being defamed in the Nirav Modi engineered PNB scam. The secretariat agreed with the assessment of AIIEA secretariat that our employees must be in a state of absolute readiness for struggle.

The ECZIEA secretariat felt that the decision of the union government to merge the three public sector general insurance companies viz; United India, National and Oriental Insurance was a vindication of AIIEA's long standing demand. However, the decision to disinvest the merged entity by listing it in the stock exchange was a retrograde step. The secretariat therefore agreed with AIIEA secretariat's understanding that we must demand the merger of New India as well and felt there was an urgent need to deepen our struggle against disinvestment. The secretariat cautioned the employees that for the first time ever the government has exceeded the disinvestment target of Rs. 72,500 crore in the year 2017-18. With privatization of Air India on the top of the agenda and having obtained approval for listing of 14 CPSEs and strategic disinvestment of 24 CPSEs, the government has set an ambitious disinvestment target of Rs. 80,000 crore in the financial year 2018-19. The meeting cautioned the employees that New India Assurance and GIC Re already having been disinvested and the government preparing blueprints for disinvestment of the proposed merged entity in public sector general insurance, LIC employees cannot afford to rest on their oars. LIC employees must prepare for struggle, felt the secretariat.

The secretariat was also clear that commencement of negotiations for a meaningful wage revision cannot brook any further delay. The stunning performance of LIC in a competitive environment demands that employees get a due share in the all-round progress of the institution. Similarly, the meeting expressed its unanimity with AIIEA on the questions of one final option for Pension, the much-delayed Five-

Day Week and Recruitment to Class III & IV cadres. **In this background, the meeting congratulated AIIEA for its bold decision to go for One Hour Walk Out Strike in the last week of March preceded by weekly demonstrations on the demands of (i) Immediate commencement of negotiations for wage revision, (ii) Immediate clearance of the Five-Day Week proposal, (iii) One final option to join the 1995 Pension Scheme and (iv) Recruitment in Class III & IV cadres in LIC.** The meeting took a firm resolve to popularize these campaign issues all over the zone and finally plunge into the strike action. The meeting called upon our units to prepare for the upcoming strike action in a big way so that the strike becomes a historic success in our zone.

The meeting also discussed some specific issues pertaining to our zone viz; problems related to Mediclaim settlements, problems in repair/ maintenance and modernization of office buildings and some issues related to infrastructure. It was decided that these issues would be followed up with the zonal management for effective redressal. The ECZIEA secretariat meeting decided that:

- (i) Divisional Units should finalise the dates of their ensuing Annual Conferences in consultation with ECZIEA headquarters, as soon as possible.
- (ii) Divisional Units should immediately finalise their books of accounts and submit the TU returns to appropriate authorities, marking a copy to ECZIEA headquarters.
- (iii) All divisional units should observe International Womens' Day on 8th of March (it has since been observed) by focusing on the theme "Defend Women Workers' Democratic Rights". A detailed reportage should be sent to ECZIEA in this regard.
- (iv) Divisional Units should try to increase the subscription of Insurance Worker in their respective units at least by 20% of the present position within the next 3-4 months. This apart, each Divisional Unit will send an advertisement to Insurance Worker once in a year so that some financial help can be extended. The meeting authorized the General Secretary to finalise a calendar and send it to divisional units.
- (v) In view of the interest shown by IEUMD (Muzaffarpur), the next Secretariat meeting can be planned at Muzaffarpur. Similarly, in view of the proposal of SDLIEA (Sambalpur), the responsibility to host the next conference of ECZIEA would be given to Sambalpur divisional unit.

We are confident that the decisions of the ECZIEA secretariat meeting would be implemented by all units in letter and spirit.

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours

Shreekanth Mishra

General Secretary