

**THIRD WOMEN'S CONVENTION AT CUTTACK: A GRAND SUCCESS**

The third zonal level working women's convention of ECZIEA was held at Cuttack on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Around 150 women comrades from across the zone converged at Cuttack to participate in the Convention. A sense of elation and enthusiasm was quite visible amongst the women comrades. The venue of the Convention, Com. S.N. Sircar Memorial Hall (meeting hall of the CDIEA's own union office building), was not only brimming with women comrades but also with confidence and joy.

The Convention began with the hoisting of the ECZIEA flag by **Com. Pradip Kumar Mukherjee**, President ECZIEA. A presidium comprising of **Com. Purabi Ghosh (Jamshedpur)**, **Com. Manju Singh (Patna I)** and **Com. Manorama Mohanty (Cuttack)** conducted the proceedings of the Convention. **Com. Smrutirekha Sahoo**, Convener of the Women's Sub Committee of ECZIEA placed the Approach Paper and gave a broad outline of the background against which the Convention was taking place.

**Com. Geeta Shant**, Convener Women's Sub Committee of North Central Zone Insurance Employees' Federation (NCZIEF) and General Secretary of Bareilly Divisional Unit of AIIEA formally inaugurated the Convention. In her inaugural address, Com. Geeta dwelt on a range of issues confronting women employees in general and women employees of LIC in particular. She said that it was the public sector character of LIC that had ensured a dignified life and dignified working ambience to the women employees. Juxtaposing the life of a woman in public sector insurance with that of a woman in the private sector or in the unorganized sector, she exhorted the women comrades to fight for the protection of public sector insurance under the banner of AIIEA. She pointed out that using communalism as a political mobilization tactics, as is being done by the present government, was fraught with dangers. She gave a lucid account of how religion was sought to be used to suppress the legitimate democratic aspirations of women. Com. Geeta exhorted the women comrades to strengthen AIIEA at all levels so as to realize a society free from oppression and gender discrimination.

**Com. Sanghamitra Sarangi** (Sambalpur) initiated the discussion on the Approach Paper and did a brilliant job of it. The initiation was followed by some equally inspiring deliberations by **Com. Manju Singh** (Patna I), **Com. Paulina Xess** (Hazaribagh), **Com. Manorama Mohanty** (Cuttack), **Com. Jyotilaxmi Panigrahi** (Sambalpur) and **Com. Sujata Mishra** (Bhubaneswar). **Com. Pradip Kumar Mukherjee**, President ECZIEA, briefly intervened in the debate and said that neo liberalism had reduced women to the status of mere commodities. He exuded confidence that the women employees in the east central zone of LIC would leave no stone unturned to

strengthen the organization and march ahead with courage and conviction. **Com. Shreekant Mishra**, General Secretary ECZIEA, also briefly intervened and said that women workers were subjected to a double whammy of exploitation as a woman and also as a worker. He cautioned the women comrades to remain conscious of the conspiracy being hatched to oppress women by simply deifying them while snatching away all their democratic rights. He urged them to leverage their fight for a just and meaningful wage revision, one more option for pension and recruitment in LIC along with the struggle of the common masses.

The Convention unanimously elected **Com. Manorama Mohanty** (Cuttack) as the Convener of the Women's Sub Committee of ECZIEA and Comrades **Manju Singh** (Patna I), **Sanghamitra Sarangi** (Sambalpur) and **Nelly Minz** (Hazaribagh) as the Joint Conveners.

**Com. Anjuprabha Behera** (Cuttack) proposed the customary vote of thanks and profusely praised AIEA for imbining courage and conviction in thousands of women employees like her.

The Convention was a huge success, without an iota of doubt. Comrades of Cuttack Division Insurance Employees' Association (CDIEA) once again gave a brilliant account of themselves by organizing the event in a manner and scale befitting of the stature of the organization. A huge round of applause is due to them!

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary