

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

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To

All the employees:

Dear Comrades,

**ECZIEA Secretariat meets on 08 August 2020 and takes the resolve**

- \* To protect LIC of India from disinvestment and to make concerted efforts for its uninterrupted growth.**
- \* To mobilise employees, policyholders and field forces against listing of LIC.**
- \* To consolidate the organisation at all levels.**
- \* To try earnestly for the resolution of employees' issues.**

You are aware that the AIIEA secretariat had met through video conferencing on 02 August 2020 and took some important decisions to protect public sector insurance industry in general and the LIC of India in particular from the impending danger of listing in the Stock Exchange. Taking a cue from the AIIEA, the secretariat of ECZIEA also met through video conferencing on 08 Aug 2020 to discuss and implement the decisions of AIIEA secretariat. The ECZIEA Secretariat also discussed in detail the organisational and employees' issues of our zone. The meeting was attended by all Secretariat members except the Convener, Womens' Sub Committee of ECZIEA due to some medical emergency.

Despite his busy schedule of virtual meetings, Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA also carved out some time for us and addressed the meeting.

The secretariat noted the fact that the pandemic COVID-19 has wrought havoc globally on the lives and livelihoods of the human civilization. The global economy presently faces the deepest recession and crisis of last 80 years. The IMF and the World Bank have also echoed the same and indicated a sharp contraction of world economy in coming years. About India, various global and national agencies have also reported that the economy of our country will plummet by (-) 3.2 per cent to nearly (-) 9.5 per cent. The Indian economy which was reeling with crisis due to the disastrous demonetization and the ill planned GST regime had a growth of 4.2 percent only during the last financial year. It further suffers a serious setback due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The workers and the marginalised section of our society are at the receiving end of the crisis due to the compounding problems generated from the hasty and uncoordinated lockdowns/shutdowns. The 45-year-high

unemployment rate has plunged further with more than 15 crore Workers of India going jobless and left high and dry by the loss of earnings. Dearness Allowance given to Central Government employees and pensioners has been put on hold till July 2021.

The secretariat was of the unanimous opinion that the government, rather than standing by the people, has used this adversity as opportunity to sell out the premier assets of our country to meet its target of disinvestment of 2.10 lakh crores. The Secretariat noted that the government has started an all-out attack using state machineries to prevent the workers from raising their demands. Labour laws have been diluted, favouring the capitalists, leaving the workers at the mercy of their employers'. The voices of dissent are being choked in the most undemocratic and brutal ways.

The secretariat also noted that despite slow economic growth and turbulent times, the LIC has performed spectacularly. During the financial year 2019-20 the LIC has registered a growth of 25.17 per cent in its first-year premium income and 39.46 per cent in P&GS premium income. Moreover, the total assets of the LIC stands at Rs.31,96,214.81 crore as on March 31, 2020.

We reaffirm our commitment to protect the growth of the LIC in association with the field forces.

### **LIC- IPO**

The ECZIEA secretariat formulated its opinion on the LIC- IPO issue and endorsed the view of AIIEA secretariat that it is the first step towards privatisation. Despite the historical growth, the government has gone ahead and appointed "Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu" and "Edelweiss Financial Service" as advisors for bidding of IPO, as per the media reports. The government intends to sell 5 to 10 per cent stake in LIC to raise around Rs. 1 lakh crore.

The Secretariat has decided to intensify the struggle and campaign against listing of LIC at every centre of our zone.

### **WAGE REVISION**

The ECZIEA secretariat noted its serious dissatisfaction and concern over the fact that there is a delay of more than three years in settlement of wage revision. It is also noted that employees are more restive due to the continuation of the present situation and uncertainty that looms large. Therefore, the secretariat decided to carry on the decision of AIIEA secretariat and urged upon the management to start the negotiation process with improved offer without any further delay.

### **ORGANISATION**

The ECZIEA secretariat reviewed the organisational positions and developments under the present situation. It has been decided that branch and divisional level meetings will be done through video conferencing on an immediate basis. Wherever physical meetings are possible, limited permissible numbers maintaining social distancing norms and mandatory use of masks, it is to be done on an urgent basis. Online trade union classes and seminars are to be organised at all levels. The communication channels amongst our members need to get strengthened in the present situation.

The secretariat noted that despite the lockdowns and restrictions, workers are launching struggles through different innovative methods. The workers from Coal, Electricity, Anganwadi, ASHA and professionals like doctors, lawyers and health workers are joining strikes. It has been decided that joint platforms should be formed everywhere throughout the zone. It has been further decided to organize meetings during lunch recess or as per the local convenience along with other trade unions

holding placards on 18 Aug 2020 to mark the Coal workers' strike day. On this day all our units will wear badges reading "Strengthen LIC- Save India". It has also been decided that our joint front will be strengthened at all centers.

### **Intervention by AIEA General Secretary**

At the outset, the General Secretary of AIEA congratulated all the comrades of ECZIEA for their efforts and contributions towards relief works in the wake of Covid-19 crisis. When the industrial sector, agricultural sector, cottage industries and all other producing sectors have crumbled; when the migrant workers, poor and others have suffered tremendously, the contributions of our employees show their social obligations. He also congratulated Insurance Employees Association Hazaribagh Division for their contribution of one day's salary for the relief work of COVID-19 induced disaster. He also extended his revolutionary greetings to I.E.A. Jamshedpur Division for their sincere effort towards collection of funds for relief work. As well, he appealed to all the employees to come forward and donate generously, stand by the people during the pandemic.

General Secretary, AIEA placed a logical account of how the Central Govt. failed miserably in controlling the pandemic and transfers its onerous responsibility to the States to manage the national disaster. When proper steps should have been taken to control the pandemic, our government was busy in welcoming the US President Donald Trump. The unplanned sudden lock downs and the unwarranted situations developed thereafter have ruined the lives of poor and the workers. He pointed out that the COVID-19 cases are mounting in the most unmanaged countries like America, Brazil and India.

On the issue of LIC IPO, the General Secretary of AIEA said, "the founders of Indian republic, just after the independence, decided to rapidly industrialise and form public sector institutions to make India a self-reliant country. Public sector insurance industry was thus formed to protect public money and to ensure national development. However, the present dispensation in the centre is in a spree to sell the premier public sector institutions to achieve their ideological, political and economic goal."The government of the day speaks about "Atmanirvar Bharat" and dubiously hankers for foreign capitals. He also appealed everyone associated with LIC to support our struggle against listing of LIC.

The General Secretary was confident that a good wage revision will be achieved, although it is already delayed. He urged upon the employees to consolidate the organisation at all levels under the present situation with better communication and to intensify the struggle.

### **EMPLOYEES' ISSUES**

The meeting also delved on employees' issues raised by the members as mentioned below and took a decision to take appropriate steps:

#### **Staff Mediclaim:**

The meeting observed that TPAs are changed almost every year. As a result, employees /offices face acute problem in maintaining liaison for the settlement of claims so also new TPAs come up with new procedures. Moreover, the claims relating PPE kits/face shields of Corona patients are denied by the TPA in the name of non reimbursement of consumable items and a large chunk of the claim amount pertains to those consumable. In the state of Bihar and more particularly in Patna city, the hospitals deny cashless treatment for corona patients. The pending mediclaims with the erstwhile

TPAs namely Heritage and Raksha and their dilly dallying with the settlement was come up in the meeting.

ECZIEA has already taken up the issue at Zonal level and continues to follow up the matter for some logical conclusion. It is also noted that AIEA has placed the issue of claim pertaining to Corona disease at the corporate level.

Pending court case of Part-time (Waterman) employees:

The General Secretaries of Bhagalpur and Begusarai divisions pointed out that the court case of Part-time (Waterman) employees is pending at Jharkhand High Court.

ECZIEA is constantly following up the matter with the Zonal office and Jharkhand High Court. The High Court was closed for the last one month and has started its virtual hearings from 07 Aug 2020 with very selective cases. However, ECZIEA will continue its effort with all seriousness to resolve the issue.

Pending MBA cases:

It is reported that few cases of different divisions are pending at Zonal office.

All divisional units are advised to send a fresh list of the pending cases to ECZIEA for further follow-up.

Statement of DC Pension:

The DC Pension statements of employees are not issued from time to time as revealed by some members.

ECZIEA Secretariat decided to take up the issue at the Zonal Office.

HFL issue:

General Secretary of Bhagalpur Division brought to the notice of the members that HFL is asking for Sale deed on the second loan of some employees whereas the same documents are already mortgaged with them at the time of availing the first loan. So the employees smell missing of documents at HFL.

ECZIEA Secretariat agreed to take up the cases at the appropriate level if specific complaints in this regard received.

Pending terminal benefits of Retired Employees:

Some pending terminal benefits of retired employees come up for discussion to which ECZIEA Secretariat agreed to take up the issues on the basis of individual cases received.

Apart from the above, the ECZIEA Secretariat agreed to pursue building issues of Hajipur and Nawada branch offices under Patna-1 Division with Zonal Management.

## **DECISIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT**

After a detailed analysis of the present situation, the secretariat took the following decisions:

### **1. Campaign against LIC IPO—**

- a) An educative campaign to start among our employees.
  - b) Broader campaign among agents and policyholders, meeting with leaders of Political parties and MPs' to handover vernacular language booklets against LIC IPO.
  - c) Meeting with the opinion makers, like eminent economists, Professors, Lawyers, Retired Judges and other eminent personalities and requesting them to write to the Prime Minister against LIC IPO.
  - d) Booklet in vernacular language (Hindi and Odiya) against LIC IPO to be distributed.
- 2. Insurance Week celebration to be organised with innovative programs to highlight our demand to Strengthen LIC.**
- 3. On 18 August 2020, organise solidarity programs in support of coal workers with gate meetings holding placards during lunch recess or as per the local convenience at all centers to mark the day as "Save Public Sector LIC Day".**

As per the decision of AIIEA Secretariat, on 18 August 2020, the members of our organization are requested to take family photographs with the placard displaying "Strengthen LIC-Save India" and upload the same in the social media like Facebook and Whatsapp to build public consciousness.

4. A webinar addressed by Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA to be organised on the issue of LIC IPO in the last week of August.
5. One day strike, if Ordinance/Bill introduced in parliament for amendment of LIC Act for LIC IPO.
6. ECZIEA Zoom Applications can be used for D.O. level and B.O. level meetings.
7. Trade Union Returns/Affiliation fees have to be submitted at the earliest.
8. All the activities against LIC IPO at different centres of the Zone has to be reported to Insurance Worker.
9. Fund mobilisation should be started immediately for Insurance Worker as ECZIEA has to pay Rs.55000/- in the month of January, 2021.

We hope that our units have organised meetings and other programs along with other trade unions on 09 August 2020. We are also confident that the above decisions will be implemented with true spirit and our units will take necessary organisational steps to carry forward the struggle.

With revolutionary greetings,



General Secretary