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Despite PM's advice not to politicise an issue that concerns the national security it is becoming central to the forthcoming Assembly elections.



Massive agitations for reservations- a damning indictment of Neo-liberalism that is creating a most unequal society.

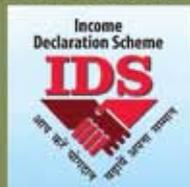


Gender injustice affects all women irrespective of caste and religion.

National Security, Democracy, Liberal Thoughts, Gender Justice and Unity of the country are at stake.

**RESIST THE ATTACKS,
TO BUILD A SOCIETY BASED ON EQUALITY & JUSTICE**

CHARADE OF BLACK MONEY DISCLOSURE



बाजार का रुख करने वाली पहली बीमा कम्पनी

REVOLUTION THAT LIBERATED WOMEN

THE STORY OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION





24th GENERAL CONFERENCE OF AIIEA RECEPTION COMMITTEE FORMED

The South Zone Insurance Employees' Federation has accepted the responsibility of hosting the 24th General Conference of AIIEA at Ernakulam. The Conference will be held from January 21-25, 2016. This is the first time the State of Kerala will be hosting the All India Conference. Nearly 1600 delegates and observers from across the country are expected to participate in this conference. The host divisional unit Ernakulam with the help of other divisional units of SZIEF is making all preparations to make the Conference memorable.

It was in this background that the Reception Committee to host the 24th General Conference of All India Insurance Employees' Association was formed on 8th October, 2016 at Women's Association Hall, Ernakulam in a massively attended meeting of Insurance Employees, fraternal Organisations and other mass organisations. The meeting was presided over by Com C.B.Venugopal, President, Kerala State General Insurance Employees' Union. Com P.B.Baburaj, General Secretary LICEU, Ernakulam Division welcomed the gathering. Former Member of Rajya Sabha Com P.Rajeev inaugurated the meeting. In his inaugural speech he appreciated AIIEA's leading role in resisting the neoliberal policies of the Government. "LIC still remains in public sector only because of the continuing struggles taken up by the mighty organization, AIIEA for the last 25 years" he commended.



Com M.Kunhikrishnan, President, SZIEF gave a brief description about the earlier conferences of AIIEA and emphasized the need to rise up to the expectations. Com T.Senthil Kumar, General Secretary, SZIEF and Com C.Ravindranathan, Former Vice President, AIIEA greeted.

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THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES

These are very difficult times for the nation. The Indian society is being stressed on so many issues that it is being threatened with illiberalism, disunity, fundamentalism and undermining of democracy itself. These are really challenging times for all those who believe in democracy, liberalism, fairness, justice and unity of people and the nation.

The terror strike at Uri Army Camp that claimed the lives of our 19 brave soldiers infuriated the nation. This was a cowardly act by terror groups based in Pakistan. The nation in one voice condemned this unprovoked attack and demanded that those responsible be brought to justice. The Indian Army struck across the line of control and demolished seven terror launch pads and killed a number of terrorists. The nation applauded the action of the Army and stood solidly behind the government for the surgical strikes and its diplomatic measures to isolate Pakistan. But what happened thereafter is a cause of great worry.

The Prime Minister who advised not to politicise an issue that concerns the national security changed tack and made it clear that this issue will become central to the elections in UP, Punjab and other States. The Defence Minister is behaving like a street fighter with claims to have released the potential of the Indian Army. He bragged that surgical strikes never took place earlier and in the last 30 years Indian Defence Forces were a demoralised lot. He further claimed credit for the Prime Minister and himself for this successful military action. Nothing can be more insulting to the Indian Army and the soldiers who have been defending our borders heroically. The Congress which is peeved joined the issue to say that surgical strikes took place during the UPA rule too and released documents of Operation Orange carried out in 2011. In the midst of such political mudslinging, the response of the Army was sober and measured. A top ranking Army Officer pointed out that the surgical strikes carried out on September 29th were

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neither the first nor will they be the last. This statement points out to the volatile situation existing on the borders.

This event brought to light the nauseating role the so-called national media, specially the electronic media is playing today. To be fair, the print media to a great extent has remained objective. The electronic media whipped up a frenzy bordering on jingoistic nationalism. The foreign policy and the national security were sought to be framed in the television studios. The television anchors were seen intimidating and threatening all those who had a view different from the government on foreign and security issues. The differing voices were branded as unpatriotic and anti-national. Attempts were made to decide war tactics in the television studios. Space was denied for objectivity and reasoning. It looked that the country was being prepared for a war. Even the television channel which claimed to be independent and having highest journalistic ethics blacked out an interview of the former Home Minister and Finance Minister. In the words of the respected journalist Nihal Singh even during emergency Indian media despite pressures from the government had not succumbed in the manner it is doing now. It is not clear if the Modi government pressurised the Media to bend; but what we are seeing is the crawling of the media. In the whole process democratic dissent and independence of media has become a big casualty.

Let it be clear that war is too serious a business to be decided in the media rooms. As a retired Major General says that no television anchor or politician or even a senior military officer ever dies in the war fighting for the country. It is the jawans and the middle ranking officers who risk their lives to defend the territorial integrity of the nation. It is the people living across both the borders who pay with their lives and with the cost of displacement. It is the poor and the workers who bear the economic cost of the war. Therefore, there is an urgent need to challenge the TRP hungry anchors and the interests of their owners who are big capitalists. For the capital, war means business and yet another opportunity to expand profits. The need is to build a powerful opinion that war is no solution for any problem and in fact war in itself is a problem. Therefore, it is time for

the government to take effective political and diplomatic efforts to deescalate the tensions. The government must also recognise that Kashmir is a festering wound that needs a political solution and take political steps including dialogue with Pakistan to resolve this issue for a lasting peace in the region.

The other issue that is threatening the unity of the working class is the massive agitations for reservations in jobs by Jats in Haryana, Gujjars in Rajasthan, Patels in Gujarat and Marathas in Maharashtra. This issue has the potential to motivate many other castes and groups to start agitations demanding reservation for their castes and communities. These agitations are a damning indictment of neo-liberalism which is creating a most unequal society with fruits of development being cornered by 1 percent of the population. Despite claims of over 7 percent growth in the economy, no jobs are created resulting in socially explosive situation. The agitators must understand that reservations are meaningless when there are no jobs. The ruling classes will be happy to divide the poor and unemployed on caste lines and pit one caste against the other to divert attention from the real issues. The problem of unemployment and economic deprivation cannot be resolved unless the real enemy is identified and challenged unitedly. The need, therefore, is to unite all the dispossessed and deprived and challenge the neo-liberal economic policies and the regime that pursues these policies.

The third issue of concern today is the rising fundamentalism. It is a fact that after the coming to power of Modi government, affiliates of RSS have become belligerent and miss no opportunity to divide people and impose retrograde social values. But the moulanas and those claiming to protect Islam are no less guilty in fanning and defending fundamentalism. The ongoing debate on obnoxious concept of triple talaq is an example. The fight of Muslim women against triple talaq and polygamy cannot be considered as a threat to Islam. It is an issue of gender justice and dignity to the women. The Supreme Court which is considering this issue must base its judgement on the basis of the constitutional guarantees of equality granted to the women. This struggle of the Muslim women has to be supported by all the

progressive sections of the society including those from the Muslim community itself. The issue of gender justice affects not just the Muslim women but all women in this country irrespective of religion.

The recent Supreme Court judgement on a divorce case has upheld the values of patriarchy. The Court held that a Hindu has the right to divorce a Hindu wife who does not subscribe to the position that a Hindu son should support his parents. This is alarming as it shows a narrow and repressive mentality that considers women as second class citizens. The Court held that the idea that the Hindu wife is integral to the husband's family was part of "normal practice" and it was unreasonable for her to insist on living separately from the

family. This judgement in effect has held that a wife cannot have any independent views and desires and has to live by the views and desires of the husband, thereby denying women the right of equality enshrined in the constitution.

These events clearly point out to the difficult times for the Indian society and the nation. What is at stake today is national security, democracy, liberal thoughts, gender justice and unity of the country. Naturally these stakes are too high to be left unattended or ignored. It is the responsibility of the working class to unite all progressive sections to resist these attacks and work to build a society based on equality and justice.

यह मुश्किल समय है

देश के लिये यह समय बहुत मुश्किल है। भारतीय समाज को इतने सारे मुद्दों पर दबाव सहना पड़ रहा है कि उसे अनुदारवाद, फूट, तत्ववाद व खुद जनतन्त्र को क्षति पहुँचने का खतरा पैदा हो गया है। यह वास्तव में उन सभी लोगों के लिये चुनौतीपूर्ण समय है जो लोगों और देश के लिये जनतन्त्र, उदारता, निष्पक्षता, न्याय और एकता में विश्वास करते हैं।

उड़ी कैम्प पर आतंकवादी हमले से जिसमें हमारे 19 बहादुर सैनिकों की जान चली गई, सारे देश में गुस्से की लहर है। यह पाकिस्तान में आधारित आतंकी समूहों का एक कायराना हमला था। इस अकारण हमले की देश ने एक स्वर में निंदा की तथा मांग की कि जो भी लोग इस हमले के दोषी हैं उनके विरुद्ध कानूनी कार्यवाही की जानी चाहिये। भारतीय सेना ने नियंत्रण रेखा को पार करके सात आतंकी ठिकानों पर हमला किया तथा कई आतंकवादियों को मार गिराया। देश ने भारतीय सेना के इस कदम की सराहना की तथा सर्जिकल स्ट्राइक और पाकिस्तान को अलग-थलग करने के कूटनीतिक प्रयासों में उसने सरकार को अपना ठोस समर्थन दिया। लेकिन उसके बाद जो हुआ वह अत्यंत चिंता का विषय है।

प्रधानमंत्री जिन्होंने परामर्श दिया था कि राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा से सम्बन्धित मुद्दों का राजनीतिकरण नहीं करना चाहिये, उन्होंने अपना रास्ता बदला तथा यह स्पष्ट किया कि उत्तर प्रदेश, पंजाब व अन्य राज्यों के चुनावों में यह मुख्य मुद्दा होगा। रक्षा मंत्री एक सड़क पर लड़ने वाले की तरह व्यवहार कर रहे हैं तथा भारतीय सेना की संभावना को मुक्त करने का दावा कर रहे हैं। शेखी बघारते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले तीन वर्षों में पहले कभी भी सर्जिकल स्ट्राइक नहीं हुए थे। भारतीय रक्षा सेनाओं का इस कथन से हौसला पस्त हुआ। आगे उन्होंने इस सफल सैनिक कार्यवाही का श्रेय प्रधानमंत्री को और खुद को देने

का दावा किया। भारतीय सेना के लिये और उन सिपाहियों के लिये जो हमारी सीमाओं की बहुत बहादुरी से रक्षा कर रहे हैं, इससे अधिक अपमानजनक कुछ भी नहीं हो सकता है। कांग्रेस जो इस प्रयास से दुःखी हुई थी वह भी इस मुद्दे में शामिल हो गई तथा उसने भी कहा कि यू0पी0ए0 शासन में भी सर्जिकल स्ट्राइक हुए थे और उसने 2011 में हुए आपरेशन आरेंज के दस्तावेज सार्वजनिक कर दिये। एक दूसरे पर कीचड़ उछालने के इस राजनीतिक खेल में सेना का प्रत्युत्तर संयमित तथा मर्यादित रहा। एक उच्च-पदेन सेना अधिकारी ने संकेत दिया कि 29 सितम्बर को हुए सर्जिकल स्ट्राइक न तो पहली बार हुए थे और न ही अन्तिम होंगे। यह कथन हमारी सीमा पर मौजूद अस्थिर स्थिति की ओर संकेत करता है।

इस घटना से हमारे तथाकथित राष्ट्रीय मीडिया और विशेष तौर पर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया द्वारा खेले जा रहे घृणित खेल पर से भी परदा उठता है। निष्पक्षता के लिये हम कह सकते हैं कि छापे वाला मीडिया प्रायः तटस्थ रहा है। इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया ने उग्र राष्ट्रवाद की हद तक पागलपन को भड़काया। विदेश नीति और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का निर्माण टेलीविजन स्टूडियो में करने का प्रयत्न किया गया। टेलीविजन एन्कर्स उन सभी लोगों को परेशान करते और धमकाते हुए देखे गये जिनके कि विदेश और सुरक्षा मुद्दों पर सरकार से अलग विचार थे। असहमति की आवाजों को राष्ट्र-विरोधी व देश-विरोधी घोषित किया गया। टेलीविजन स्टूडियो में युद्ध नीति तय करने के प्रयास किये गये। तटस्थता और विवेक के लिये किसी भी गुंजाइश को नकार दिया गया। ऐसा लगा कि देश को युद्ध के लिये तैयार किया जा रहा है। यहां तक कि एक टेलीविजन चैनल ने जोकि स्वतंत्र होने तथा ऊँची पत्रकारिता के आदर्शों को अपनाने का दावा करता है, भी पूर्व गृहमंत्री व वित्त मंत्री का साक्षात्कार नहीं दिखाया। सम्मानित

पत्रकार निहाल सिंह के शब्दों में आपातकालीन स्थिति के दौरान भी सरकार के दबाव के बावजूद मीडिया ने इस प्रकार आत्मसमर्पण नहीं किया था जैसे कि वह अब कर रहा है। यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि मोदी सरकार ने मीडिया पर झुकने के लिये दबाव डाला, लेकिन हम जो देख रहे हैं वह मीडिया का नीचता का व्यवहार है। पूरी प्रक्रिया में जनतान्त्रिक असहमति और मीडिया की स्वतन्त्रता को गहरी चोट पहुंची है।

यह स्पष्ट होना चाहिये कि युद्ध एक गंभीर कार्य है जिसे मीडिया के कमरों में तय नहीं किया जा सकता। जैसा कि एक सेवानिवृत्त मेजर जनरल कहते हैं कि देश के लिये किये गये युद्ध में कोई टेलीविजन एन्कर, राजनीतिज्ञ और यहां तक कि किसी वरिष्ठ सैन्य अधिकारी की मृत्यु नहीं होती है। ये जवान और बीच की रेंकों के अधिकारी ही हैं जो देश की भौगोलिक अखंडता की रक्षा करने के लिये अपने जीवन की बाजी लगा देते हैं। ये सीमा पर रहने वाले लोग ही हैं जो विस्थापन की कीमत पर अपने जीवन की आहुति देते हैं। ये गरीब लोग और श्रमिक ही हैं जो युद्ध की आर्थिक कीमत को सहन करते हैं। इसलिये टी0आर0पी0 के0 भूखे एन्कर्स और उनके स्वामियों को जोकि बड़े पूंजीपति हैं, को चुनौती देने की महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यकता है। पूंजी के लिये युद्ध का अर्थ व्यापार है और लाभ को बढ़ाने का एक और अवसर है। आवश्यकता यह शक्तिशाली राय बनाने की है कि युद्ध किसी समस्या का हल नहीं है और वास्तव में युद्ध खुद एक समस्या है। इसलिये यह सरकार के लिये तनाव को कम करने हेतु प्रभावशाली राजनीतिक और कूटनीतिक कदम उठाने का समय है। सरकार को यह भी मानना चाहिये कि कश्मीर एक रिसता हुआ घाव है जिसके लिये राजनीतिक हल की आवश्यकता है तथा उसे इस क्षेत्र में स्थाई शांति के मुद्दों को हल करने के लिये पाकिस्तान के साथ बातचीत सहित राजनीतिक कदम उठाने चाहिये।

अन्य मुद्दा जो मजदूर वर्ग की एकता को खतरा पैदा कर रहा है वह हरियाणा में जाट, गुजरात में पटेल, राजस्थान में गुज्जर तथा महाराष्ट्र में मराठाओं के लिये रोजगार में आरक्षण के लिये किया जाने वाला भारी आन्दोलन है। इस मुद्दे से यह संभावना बनी है कि वह अन्य जातियों व समूहों को भी अपनी जातियों व समुदायों के लिये रोजगार में आरक्षण की मांग करते हुए आन्दोलन करने के लिये प्रेरित करे। ये आन्दोलन नव-उदारवाद की नीतियों को कड़ी आलोचना है जो एक बहुत असमान समाज पैदा कर रही हैं तथा जिसमें विकास के लाभों को जनता के एक प्रतिशत लोगों ने हड़प लिया है। अर्थव्यवस्था में सात प्रतिशत की वृद्धि के दावे के बावजूद कोई रोजगार उत्पन्न नहीं हो रहे हैं जिससे स्थिति सामाजिक रूप में विस्फोटक होती जा रही है। आन्दोलन करने वालों को समझना चाहिये कि जब रोजगार ही नहीं है तो आरक्षण का कोई महत्व नहीं है। असली मुद्दों से ध्यान हटाने के लिये शासक वर्ग लोगों और बेराजगारों को जातिगत आधार पर बांटने व एक जाति को दूसरी जाति के खिलाफ खड़ा करके खुश होंगे। बेरोजगारी और आर्थिक बंचना

की समस्याएं हल नहीं हो सकतीं जब तक कि असली दुश्मन की पहचान न की जाय तथा उसको एकबद्ध होकर चुनौती न दी जाय। इसलिये आवश्यकता गरीब व वंचित वर्गों को एकबद्ध करने की तथा नव-उदारवाद की आर्थिक नीतियों व उस शासन को जो उनको लागू करता है, को चुनौती देने की है।

आज चिंता का तीसरा मुद्दा बढ़ता हुआ तत्ववाद है। यह एक तथ्य है कि मोदी सरकार के शासन में आने के बाद आर0एस0एस0 से सम्बद्ध लोग हमलावर हो गये हैं तथा लोगों को विभाजित करने का और प्रतिभागी सामाजिक मूल्यों को थोपने का कोई भी अवसर नहीं गंवाते हैं। लेकिन तत्ववाद को हवा देने और बचाने के लिये मौलाना और इस्लाम की रक्षा करने का दावा करने वाले लोग भी कम दोषी नहीं हैं। तीन तलाक की धिनौनी अवधारणा पर आजकल चल रही बहस इसका एक उदाहरण है। मुस्लिम महिलाओं के तीन तलाक व बहुविवाह प्रथा के विरुद्ध संघर्ष को इस्लाम के लिये खतरे के रूप में नहीं लिया जा सकता। यह लिंग न्याय व महिलाओं के सम्मान का मुद्दा है। उच्चतम न्यायालय को जो इस मुद्दे पर विचार कर रहा है, अपना निर्णय महिलाओं को समानता के सर्वैधानिक अधिकार की गारंटी देने के आधार पर करना चाहिये। मुस्लिम महिलाओं के इस संघर्ष को खुद मुस्लिम समुदाय सहित समाज के सभी प्रगतिशील वर्गों का समर्थन प्राप्त होना चाहिये। लिंग न्याय का मुद्दा केवल मुस्लिम महिलाओं को ही नहीं वरन देश के इतर धर्म की सभी महिलाओं को प्रभावित करता है।

तलाक पर उच्चतम न्यायालय के एक हाल ही के निर्णय में पितृसत्ता का समर्थन किया गया है। न्यायालय ने कहा है कि एक हिन्दू पुरुष को हिन्दू महिला को तलाक देने का अधिकार है यदि वह इस बात में विश्वास नहीं करती कि हिन्दू पुरुष को अपने माता-पिता का समर्थन करना चाहिये। यह चैंकाने वाला निर्णय है क्योंकि यह महिलाओं को दूसरे दर्जे का नागरिक समझने व नियंत्रित करने की संकीर्ण मानसिकता को दिखाता है। न्यायालय ने कहा है कि एक हिन्दू पत्नी का अपने पति के परिवार का हिस्सा होने का विचार एक सामान्य व्यवहार है और उसके लिये यह अनुचित है कि वह खुद को परिवार से अलग रहने के लिये दबाव बनाये। इस निर्णय का प्रभाव यह है कि पत्नी के लिए स्वतन्त्र विचार व इच्छाओं का कोई अर्थ नहीं है और उसे पति के विचारों व इच्छाओं के अनुरूप रहना पड़ेगा चाहे ऐसा करने से संविधान में दिये गये महिलाओं के बराबरी के अधिकार को नकारा ही क्यों न जा रहा हो।

ये घटनाएँ भारतीय समाज व देश के लिये एक मुश्किल समय की ओर संकेत करती है। आज जो दांव पर लगा है वह राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा, जनतन्त्र, उदार विचार, लिंग-न्याय व देश की एकता है। स्वाभाविक रूप से यह दांव इतना बड़ा है कि इसको सम्बोधित करना ही पड़ेगा व उसकी उपेक्षा नहीं की जा सकती। यह मजदूर वर्ग की जिम्मेदारी है कि इन हमलों का प्रतिरोध करने के लिये सभी प्रगतिशील वर्गों में एकता पैदा करे और बराबरी व न्याय पर आधारित समाज का निर्माण करने का कार्य करे।

CHARADE OF BLACK MONEY DISCLOSURE

The Finance Minister described the outcome of Income Declaration Scheme (IDS) 2016, the 4-month window opened by the Govt to show something on the promise of unearthing black money, as grand success. But, by now it is clear that this is simply an exaggeration, perhaps another 'jumla', as the President of the ruling party had said about the election promise itself!



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

INTRODUCTION

One of the more popular and ostentatious promises of Narendra Modi's election campaign in 2014 was to bring back billions of dollars of "black money" (i.e., Rs 40 lakh crore) to India allegedly stashed abroad "within 100 days" of coming to power and ensuring every Indian getting Rs 15 lakh in his/her account. But BJP and Modi government has totally failed in redeeming this promise. Amit Shah, President, BJP is on record saying that this promise is just an election jumla and need not be taken seriously.

FIASCO OF BLACK MONEY HAUL

In order to hoodwink the people, under the smokescreen of delivering on the BJP's poll promise of unearthing black money stashed abroad, government had enacted the Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets (Imposition of Tax) Act, 2015, in 1st July 2015. But it proved a failure as against the total targeted declaration of Rs 1 lakh crore, only 644 declarations, worth Rs 4,164 crore, were made under the black money window for foreign assets last year, resulting in tax collection of mere Rs 2,428 crore despite much higher tax and penalty rate of 60 per cent.

As government had to show something to people on this issue, it opened a four-month window for declaring unaccounted money

known as Income Declaration Scheme (IDS) 2016 that came into effect from 1 June, 2016 and ended on September 30. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley described the outcome of scheme as grand success and took pride in announcing that 64,275 declarants disclosed an amount of Rs 65,250 crore from which the government will get Rs 29,362.5 crore in tax and penalty. Amit Shah went a step further in telling that government has fulfilled its twin promises of providing corruption-free government and unearthing black money.

The pungent truth is that only 15 per cent of 64275 declarants came voluntarily to disclose their unaccounted wealth, while overwhelming majority came because of mega surveys carried out by the Income tax Department across the nation. However, sources in the income Tax department said only 7-8 per cent of potential black money holders availed of the compliance scheme. What is worrisome that until the first week of September 2016, income tax (I-T) department had received disclosures of just over Rs 1,000 crore. In order to avoid the blushes, government adopted some coercive methods to arrive at the final figure achieved. It is interesting to note that no politician, big industrial houses, media magnets or bureaucrats are found in the list of those who declared their unaccounted wealth. It is also interesting to note that out of the declared

Rs.65000 crore, forced declaration by search and survey account for more than Rs.52000 crore. Therefore, to say that IDS is success is simply exaggeration.

ARUN JAITLEY'S IDS VS CHIDAMBARAM'S VDIS

Many make odious comparison about the outcome of the Income Declaration Scheme (IDS) 2016 of Arun Jaitley with a similar Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) by Chidambaram in 1997 and dub IDS as more successful, biggest-ever disclosure of hidden wealth. This opinion is totally flawed and misleading. It is true that under IDS ,2016 aggregate disclosures amount to Rs 65,250 crore (\$10 billion), that will rake in Rs 29,362 crore in taxes to the exchequer, while the income declared under VDIS had been Rs 33,000 crore that yielded some Rs 9,729 crore as tax to nation's exchequer in 1997. The comparison becomes faulty in view of the differing tax and penalty rates and also when compared with the size of the economy between the two periods.

Since 1997, the size of Indian economy (gross national income at current price) has grown more than nine times and the economy measured in term of GDP has grown more than five times at constant prices. Hence, the unaccounted income disclosed and tax accrued to government under IDS should be more than 9 times than those of VDIS. But tax accrued to government has grown only by 3 times while unaccounted income disclosed grown less than two times. Further, India's collections are paltry compared to the collections of amnesty schemes of Indonesia and Argentina. Asset declarations in Indonesia totalled \$277 billion in the first three months of a nine-month scheme. In Argentina, declarations are estimated to touch \$80 billion as against \$10 billion in India in 2016.

BLACK MONEY DISCLOSURE COMES AT A PRICE

In India, since 1950, around 12 black money disclosures schemes have been declared. But the disconcerting news is that black money disclosures have come at a price. There is a price to be paid in terms of aggregate tax receipts when the government goes for extra collection through the black money window. The price is the drop in growth rate of direct tax collection for the year. For

each of the scheme years, the Income Tax (I-T) department found that the actual pace of tax collections trailed the rate of growth for the previous years. The trend is the same, except Amnesty Scheme of 1985 where the tax commissioners were given the leeway to frame the details, leaving them free to balance the receipts within the overall target for the year. For instance, the most popular among those, the voluntary disclosure income scheme of 1997 got the government additional tax receipts of Rs 9,729 crore. Even after adding the sum to the aggregate direct tax receipts shows a growth rate of less than 16 per cent. In the previous year the direct tax receipts had risen by over 24 per cent. If history repeats itself, rise of direct tax may be lower in 2016 as compared to previous year making IDS a charade.

When a special drive is launched, the tax officials receive the target earlier to make the scheme a success. It becomes difficult for them to achieve double targets in one year, often from the same assesses. What is distressing is that those schemes come up in the year to shores up revenues instead of cleaning up public life and removing the spectre of black money. Those who generally amass black money and disclose under any schemes have a cheating mentality. After paying taxes and disclosing money, they again start amassing black money and wait again for such amnesty scheme. As such these type of schemes legalize and encourage black money generation, instead of curbing it.

NO ATTEMPT TO CATCH REAL CULPRIT

According to Ambit Capital Research, given that India's GDP in calendar year 2016 is expected to be \$2.3 trillion, the size of India's



Courtesy: Satish Acharya

black economy is about \$460 billion (over Rs 30 lakh crore). In reality, it will be much higher; may be around 50 per cent of GDP. The present government which is talking much on curbing black money and corruption, is indeed, indirectly enhancing it by escalating crony capitalism in form of rising tax arrears, tax foregone, rising Non Performing Assets (NPAs) etc. The other name of crony *capitalism* is corporate welfare, a perversion of capitalism. According to a report submitted to Parliament, overall direct tax arrears stood at Rs 827,680 crore as on April 1, 2015. Out of those, 17 individuals have a whopping Rs 2.14 lakh crore as outstanding tax arrears, with each of them owing more than Rs 1000 crore. In 2015-16, the centre lost potential tax revenue worth a staggering Rs 6.11 lakh crore due to various exemptions, concessions, rebate, etc given to section of taxpayers mainly rich and corporates. This is an increase of Rs 56,779 crore over the previous fiscal. Ridiculously, earlier called "revenue foregone" Finance Minister renamed it "revenue impact of tax incentives" to hoodwink people. This figure does not include export promotion-related concessions, which amount to an additional Rs 50,938 crore. Direct tax concessions worth Rs 68,711 crore alone were given to corporate bodies.

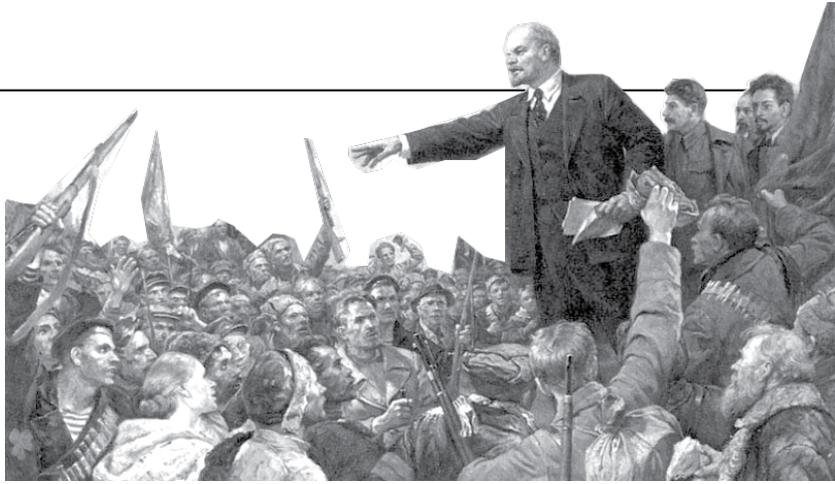
The stressed assets, that comprises restructured loans and written off assets besides NPAs, increased to Rs 7.40 lakh crore at the end of March 2015 from Rs 2.33 lakh crore as on March 2011, nearly a four-fold increase. At the end of December 2015 the total stressed assets of all the banks were at Rs 8 lakh crore. This means that more than Rs 8 lakh crore of the loans given by our banks have not been returned by the borrowers. Public sector banks have been forced to write off Rs 114,000 crore over the last three years, which is more than the write-off in the previous nine. As on 31 December 2015 when the data was last updated, there are 7,129 loan accounts that have been classified as wilful defaulters by different banks across the country, with total loans amounting to Rs 70,540.34 crore. The top ten corporate houses owe a staggering amount of Rs 7 lakh crore to PSBs and financial institutions. As per a report last year, Adani Group that has flourished due to support of Modi had gross debt of Rs 96,031 crore.

While government is floating Income disclosure schemes, it has not taken any step to make any enquiry against the 500 powerful persons such as Amitabh Bachhan, Abhishek Singh, son of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and Lokesh Sharma, the advertiser of Arun Jaitley as head of DDCA like whose name were found in Panama Paper for alleged offshore holdings. The NDA government in its first full Budget, presented in 2015 acceded to opposition from overseas investors and postponed the implementation of the General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) to 2017. India has Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with 82 countries identified as tax havens, which are, used to evade taxes by companies operating in India but being registered there. As a result of which many investors /companies get registered in tax haven countries such as Singapore pay low or nil tax and invest in India and get exempted from tax. In many cases, FDI in India has become a conduit for tax evasion for both Indian and foreign investors. The process involved is known as "Round tripping" which allows investors to hide their identity and avoid taxes by taking the investment (i.e. their black money) out of India and bringing it back to India under the cloak of foreign investment.

CONCLUSION

Arun Jaitley has declared that the Consolidated Fund of India would get the collected black money and it will be used for social security purposes. It is a sheer hypocrisy as same government has reduced expenditure in various social sector schemes either in absolute term or in real term. If rate of growth total tax collection is not enhanced, the last Income Disclosure Schemes will prove to be a damp squib. India has one of worst Tax-GDP ratio in world. This is due to inability of government to tax the rich, corporate and curb tax evasion. Without rasing Tax-GDP ratio to international level, adequate resources cannot be generated. Hence, effort should be made to reduce the size of this black or parallel economy by widening tax base, curbing tax evasion, taxing rich, corporate at higher rate. If the government were serious about tackling the black economy in India, it should try more by plugging the loopholes associated with the inflow of FDI through tax haven route or investment by Participatory notes in stock market.

THE STORY OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION



The working class and the progressive people around world are celebrating the centenary year of the Great October Socialist Revolution beginning from November 7, 2016. Why this revolution is still remembered, even after the collapse in 1991 of the first state led by the working class that this revolution ushered in?

K Venugopal Rao gives a brief account of this story.

"Comrades – don't fire it is now our people who are in the Winter Palace".

These words uttered by Bolsheviks 99 years ago on 7th November 1917 (25th October in the old Russian calendar) heralded the establishment of the first ever socialist state in the world. The Lenin led October revolution has given concrete form and shape to the scientific theory of Marx and Engels. October Revolution has raised the conscience levels of the workers and has changed the course of modern history. Now history has to be studied as pre and post October revolution.

Before October revolution, Paris Commune gave hope to the establishment of workers led state but it could sustain only for 72 days failing to gather support of the farmers. October revolution proved the relevance of Marxism & Leninism for the progress of humanity. It opened a new chapter in the history of mankind and brought radical changes in class composition and gave rise to national liberation movements, working class struggles and social movements across the world.

Before the revolution in 1917, Capitalism though developed in Russia, was considered as its weakest link. It occupied fifth position after Britain, France, Germany and USA in industrial sector. Workers and farmers were extremely exploited. Industrial workers and rural poor comprised about 64% of the population. People did not have any democratic rights

in the Tsar rule. Even smallest opposition against the rulers was not tolerated. People were organized in small groups. Militancy was growing in the working class originations.

In the last phase of the 19th century imperialist forces started wars to increase their dominance in the Pacific Ocean. Russian capitalists who wanted to have new markets for their goods forced Tsar to move into the war. As a result the condition of the people worsened further. People did not want a war but war was imposed on them to benefit capitalist class. Suppression of the people increased. The situation was conducive for the success of revolution. A strike call was given on 3rd January 1905 against the dismissal of four workers in a factory and soon the strike became massive and all the industrial units in St Petersburg were closed. There was a proposal to submit a memorandum on 9th January 1905 to Tsar with portraits of Tsar and church flags in their hands. Bolsheviks opposed this saying a memorandum to Tsar will not give freedom and an armed struggle against Tsar is the only alternative. But still people went in large number with a memorandum to Tsar. Nicholas II (Tsar) ordered firing on the unarmed people and around thousand people died in the firing and another 2000 were injured. Bolsheviks also went along with people and many of them were killed and several thousand were arrested. From that day onwards 9th January has come to known as Bloody Sunday.

Bolsheviks stood with the people and they campaigned against the cruel rule of Tsar. Entire country was on fire on knowing the killing of the innocent people. Every city observed massive strikes with political demands. In the later period, Bolsheviks raised the political consciousness of the people. Fourteen lakh workers participated in strikes in the first six months of the year 1914.

It is in these circumstances Russia was embroiled into the First World War with Germany declaring war on Russia on 19.07.1914. The war became inevitable due to the greed of capitalists. In Russia situation worsened due to the war and it also led to a political crisis. Lenin with foresight saw that Russia was the weakest link in imperialist chain and understood that the situation was ripe for massive change – ripe for a revolution. Among the working class leaders of that time only Lenin and Bolsheviks could recognize the imperialist character of the First World War. During this period only, Lenin completed writing his book on Imperialism. Lenin gave a call for civil war in Russia as he strongly believed that the defeat of Tsar in the war will strengthen the liberation movement of the people.

There were series of defeats for the Russian Army. More than one and half lakh Russian people were killed due to hunger and ill health. There was a severe food scarcity. Dissatisfaction was there even among the capitalists and they hatched a plot to overthrow Nicholas II. Mensheviks, Socialist revolutionaries and all those who were against the success of the revolution ganged up to remove Tsar from power and finally in February 1917 a Provisional Govt was formed in place of Tsar.

This change came to be known as February Revolution but this was not the final destination for Lenin and Bolsheviks. When Mensheviks and other

middle class bourgeoisie intellectuals were enjoying the fruits of the new found authority and power, Lenin was busy in guiding the changes into a new direction by providing revolutionary leadership and by building right strategies. Between April and July, Lenin wrote around 170 essays and several pamphlets and resolutions. Through them he set out the tasks for the working class and also to the party which is leading the working class. His writings helped the working class to explore the path of socialist revolution.

After February there were two power centers (Provisional Govt and Petrograd Soviets) in Russia. In cities, people elected their representatives to the Soviets (people councils). Bolsheviks were underground. Lenin was in exile and Stalin on his return from Siberia played a key role in guiding the Bolsheviks. On 16.04.1917, Lenin returned to Russia and thousands welcomed him in Petrograd. The next day in a meeting of delegates of the soviets, he introduced a report (which later became famous as April Thesis) dwelling on the immediate tasks to be taken to realize the dream of socialist revolution. The most important task was to take the state power from Bourgeois leadership to complete the tasks of the revolution.

Lenin recognized that soviets can be used as instruments for proletarian state power and hence he gave a call for full powers to the Soviets. But this could not be done due to the attitude of other political parties-the Mensheviks and the Socialist Revolutionaries and Kerensky the leader of Socialist Revolutionaries became the head of the Provisional Govt. This was opposed by Bolsheviks and workers and soldiers came into the street in large numbers. Farmers, workers and soldiers supported them. Bolsheviks entered factories, farms, military centres and almost every place. They occupied the warships also. The Arora naval ship was assigned a special task in the revolution. The provisional gov't made its last ditched attempt to crush the revolution. On 6th November (24th October as per old calendar), Lenin wrote a letter from a secret place to the central committee members of Bolshevik party telling them that everything was hanging on a small cotton string and people should move with arms and hold the Gov't. He told that Gov't was on the verge of collapse and it was their last chance to strike.

After this, history was made. Within

*TEN DAYS
THAT SHOOK
THE WORLD*



hours of Lenin's call, workers and soldiers were on the streets occupying post offices, railway stations, bridges and all important places. By midnight Lenin reached the official residence of Tsar and made it as headquarters for the revolution. With every passing hour the revolutionary forces became strong. The cabinet took refuge in the Winter palace. With firing from the warship Arora, people stormed into the Winter Palace and after almost five hours of battle, the Winter Palace was captured and all ministers were arrested. On 7th November 1917, the temporary Revolutionary Govt announced the collapse of the provisional Bourgeoisie Govt. State power was transferred to the worker and soldier representatives of Petrograd soviets. Thus the first Socialist State came into existence.

Soviet Union which continued for seven decades gave its citizens facilities and rights which they never dreamt of. The socialist state gave its citizens right to work, right to education, right to health, right to housing and many other benefits. Women were given equal rights on par with men in all aspects of life. The people of Soviet Union got everything that a man needs in his everyday life. It influenced the working class movements around the world and even capitalist countries were forced to give TU rights and bring in laws for the benefit of workers.

In the beginning Soviet Union faced many challenges which included imperialist interventions, civil war and economic blockades. Then it had to face the Second World War. Soviet Union played a major role in the war and ensured victory over Fascism when all imperialist countries surrendered to the onslaught of the Nazis. It lost millions of its people in the war and suffered economically. Its victory in war liberated 1/6th of the globe from exploitation and suppression by establishing socialist states in the East European countries.

Such a great socialist state collapsed in 1991 due to various reasons. As a result once again the imperialist forces have gained prominence. The power of working class weakened. The imperialist finance capital has expanded the policies of neo liberalism. It used IMF, WB and WTO as tools to expand its dominance by propagating consumerist globalization. Economists like Francis Fukuyama declared that it is the "end of history" and capitalism will sustain forever without any challenge

to it. Writers like Samuel Huntington wrote that socialist ideology has disappeared and declared that henceforth clashes among people will be on the basis of civilizations and not on ideologies.

But the last 25 years since the collapse of Soviet Union has proved otherwise. The 2008 economic crisis has brought to fore the crisis of capitalism and its inherent contradictions. The latter developments have proved that the crisis of capitalism is neither temporary nor transient but is permanent and also systemic. The measures taken for the revival of capitalism are not working. It is not the Left ideologues but the capitalist economists themselves are saying that the capitalism is not sustainable. Joseph Stiglitz predicted the fall and demise of capitalism. Pope Francis is saying that people are burdened by current economic policies and is calling for a change. Thomas Piketty in his book named "Capital in 21st century" writes how imperialist globalization has increased inequities among countries, societies and people. He recommends for regulating the market and speaks against complete freedom to the market.

The rising resistance to capitalism is keeping the spirit of October Revolution live and vibrant. Workers across the world are looking for alternatives. Alternatives are also emerging. Latin American countries are showing some promise in spite of recent disturbances in some of these countries. The Greece crisis has shown the ugly face of capitalism. Britain's exit from the European Union (BREXIT) is a slap on the face of neo-liberalism. The massive success of the September 2nd strike shows the anger and dissatisfaction of the workers of our country to the neo-liberal policies.

People want an alternative but this can come only by changing the capitalist mode of economy. The real alternative is socializing production and also the means of production under a socialist system. The working class has to struggle to build 21st century socialism by drawing lessons from the experiences of the erstwhile Soviet Union and East European countries.

Socialism is the future of human civilisation and the spirit of October Revolution will live forever and ever.



HEROINES of OCTOBER REVOLUTION THAT LIBERATED WOMEN

The Russian women became revolutionaries for a variety of reasons. Initially, their involvement was focused on women's rights. However, over time it evolved into a rebellion not only against traditional gender roles, but also a fight for equality for all people. In the Great October Revolution tens of, hundreds of, thousands of nameless heroines marched side by side with the workers and peasants behind the Red Flag and the slogan of the Soviets.



A Soviet Poster indicating liberation of women from traditional roles

M. GIRIJA

By 1917, most Russians had lost faith over Tsar Nicholas II, who was the last emperor of Russia. At that time, government corruption was rampant and Russian economy remained backward. Russia's disastrous involvement in World War I worsened the situation. Casualties were greater than those sustained by any nation in any previous war. The economy was also hopelessly disrupted by the costly war efforts. All these made even the moderates join the Russian radical elements in calling for the overthrow of the Tsar. And in 1917, two revolutions swept through Russia, ending centuries of imperial rule and setting in motion political and social changes that would lead to the formation of the Soviet Union.

The February Revolution began on March 8, 1917. Demonstrations were organized demanding bread. The growing civil unrest coupled with chronic food shortages erupted into open revolt. A series of meetings and rallies were held for International Women's Day and gradually, they turned into economic and political gatherings. Women workers marched to nearby factories and brought out over 50,000 workers on strike. All these, forced the abdication of Nicholas II. Just months later, the newly installed provisional government was itself overthrown by the more radical Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin. In short, the February revolution overthrew the imperial government and the October Revolution, placed the Bolsheviks in power.

Plight of women in Tsar Regime

The plight of women in tsarist Russia was

one of encountering lot of injustices. Women, even those of middle class or upper class, had very limited access to education and employment. Most of the peasant girls had never gone to school. In those days, without the permission of a male guardian, women could not separate from their husbands, change their residence, leave the country, take a job or execute a bill of exchange. Divorce was practically impossible. A woman was expected to marry a man of her parents' choice, and live her life as the dutiful wife. She owed her husband complete obedience and was compelled by the State to live with him, take his name and assume his social status. Women had significantly less property and inheritance rights than men. The underlying fact for such a discriminatory status of the then Russian women was a patriarchal value system that granted all men power over women in their families.

Another difficulty that hindered the complete emancipation of women was the interference of the church. Religion was an important factor in those days in the Russian society. Russian Orthodox Church, which believed in patriarchy, was the State's official religion for many years. The church greatly opposed the idea of women working outside the home, and these values were common among the church goers, which made up the majority of the vast population.

Women Fighters

In such a background, when retaliation of people against Tsar Regime started, Russian

women were also a part of it. The Russian women became revolutionaries for a variety of reasons. Initially, their involvement was focused on women's rights. However, over time it evolved through political pragmatism to become a rebellion not only against traditional gender roles, but also a fight for equality for all people. The women who took part in the Great October Revolution were not isolated individuals. There were hosts of them. Tens of hundreds of, thousands of nameless heroines marched side by side with the workers and peasants behind the Red Flag and the slogan of the Soviets. Young and old, women workers, soldiers' wives, peasant women and housewives found living in starving cities and in impoverished villages plundered by war joined the movement. There were also women from the intelligentsia, viz., teachers, office employees, young students, women doctors, among those who carried the red flag to the victory. They marched cheerfully, selflessly and purposefully. They filled many roles within the movement. They went wherever they were sent to. When they were asked to go to the front, they put on a soldier's cap and became fighters in the Red Army. By putting on red arm-bands, they were hurrying off to the first-aid stations to help the Red front against Kerensky. They worked in army communications. It is a clear and indisputable fact that, without the participation of women, the October Revolution could not have brought the Red Flag to victory. In the year of 1917, when the great ocean of humanity heaved and

The February Revolution began on March 8, 1917. Demonstrations were organized demanding bread. A series of meetings and rallies were held for International Women's Day and gradually, they turned into economic and political gatherings. Women workers marched to nearby factories and brought out over 50,000 workers on strike.



swayed, a large part of that ocean was made up of women. Out of this sea of women's heads there were scarves and caps. From such an ocean of women, there inevitably emerged the figures of those to whom we need to pay particular attention.

Valiant heroines

When we attempt to recall the women who took part in the Great October Revolution, more and more names and faces rise up from the annals of the history. The first name that would emerge in the list is **Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaya**, life partner as well as political companion of Lenin. She had not spoken at the numerous stormy meetings, but she worked tirelessly as Lenin's right hand, occasionally making a brief but telling comment at party meetings. In moments of greatest difficulty and danger, when many stronger comrades lost heart and succumbed to doubt, she remained totally convinced of the rightness of the cause and of its certain victory. Her staunchness of spirit always had a cheering effect upon all who came into contact with her.

The next name that would come to mind is **Yelena Dmitriyevna Stassova**. She was a comrade-in-arms of Lenin during the difficult years of underground work. She was the Secretary of the Party Central Committee. She had an exceptional capacity for work and a rare ability to 'spot' the right person for the right job. Stassova carried responsibility for many important matters. In the name of the cause, she was as hard as steel. But to the sufferings of her comrades, she displayed a sensitivity and responsiveness. For the noble and cherished cause of communism, she suffered exile and imprisonment in tsarist jails, leaving her with broken health.

Klavdia Nikolayeva was a working woman of very humble origins. She had joined the Bolsheviks as early as 1908, in the years of reaction. She had endured exile and imprisonment. She returned to Leningrad in 1917 and became the heart of the first magazine for working women, *Kommunistka*. She was one of those who bore on her shoulders all the difficulties involved in preparing the way for the broad, mass involvement of women in the revolution. She was one of those who fought on two fronts – for the Soviets and communism, and at the same time for the emancipation of women.

The names of **Klavdia Nikolayeva and**

Konkordia Samoilova, who died from cholera at revolutionary post in 1921, are indissolubly linked with the first and most difficult steps taken by the working women's movement, particularly Leningrad. Konkordia Samoilova was a party worker of unparalleled selflessness and a fine speaker, who knew how to win the hearts of the working women.

Inessa Armand was charged with very important party work in preparation for the October Revolution. She contributed many creative ideas to the work conducted among women. She was unshakable in her convictions and even when faced with redoubtable opponents, was able to defend what she believed to be right. During the difficult and decisive days of the October Revolution in Moscow, enormous work was done by **Varvara Nikolayevna Yakovleva**. On the battleground of the barricades, she showed a resolution worthy of a leader of party headquarters. Her resolution and unshakable courage gave heart to the wavering and inspired those who had lost heart.

Vera Slutskaya worked selflessly in preparation for the revolution and was shot down by Cossaks on the first Red front near Petrograd. **Yevgenia Bosh** was always eager for battle with her fiery temperament. She also died at her revolutionary post. **Anna Ilyinichna Yelizarova and Maria Ilyinichna Ulyanova** – sisters and comrades-in-arms of Lenin – were closely connected with the life and activity of Lenin. **Comrade Varya**, from the railway workshops in Moscow, was always lively and always in a hurry. **Fyodorova**, a textile worker in Leningrad was fearless when it came to fighting at the barricades. And the list goes on and on. The selflessness of such heroines lives on in the very victory of that revolution, in all the gains and achievements enjoyed by the working women worldwide.

Emancipation of women

The October Revolution was the most important event in the struggle for the emancipation of women. The new Bolshevik government implemented more advanced legislation, guaranteeing in the workplaces the right of women to directly participate in social and political activity, eliminating all formal and concrete obstacles which in the past had meant the subordination of their social and political activity and their subservience to men. New legislation on maternity and health insurance was proposed and approved in December

1917. A public insurance fund was created, with no deductions from the wages of the workers, benefitting both women workers and male workers' wives. **Alexandra Kollontai** became People's Commissar for social welfare. And in this position, she participated in the passing of new laws which recognized women as citizens, with equal rights to men.

Six weeks after the revolution, civil marriage was introduced. A year later, the new civil code on marriage established an equal legal status between husband and wife. Divorce procedures were made much easier, based on the concept of mutual agreement allowing immediate divorce, and access to a court where mutual agreement was not forthcoming. In January 1918, the department for the 'protection of maternity and youth' was officially established. It granted assistance to pregnant women workers and mothers of new born babies. It guaranteed 112 days pre-natal and post-natal maternity leave at full pay and a year in which to return to their jobs without loss of seniority. It prohibited the transferring or laying off of pregnant women. It also prohibited night work for pregnant women and mothers of new born babies and it set up special maternity clinics. The life for women after 1917 was a lot more liberal when compared to the 'old days' of tsarist Russia. With all these new rights and freedoms, women finally had their own identity. With these new identities, they created political organisations that fought for the rights of women in Russian society.

In short, women in the USSR were guaranteed more equality than they had ever been before in any other societies. In Communist Russia, their equality was proclaimed by the State openly and supported by laws. The efforts of the Communist government resulted in the largest improvement in the status of women. In spite of all these changes, it is a matter of concern that still the concept - that women are inferior to men – is evident in the society and we need to find a way to demolish it. And for this, Let us recall the history of such valiant struggles, draw strength and courage from those who fought the evils of misogyny and carry forward our struggle to put an end to gender discrimination.

RED SALUTE TO THOSE COUNTLESS WORKING WOMEN WHO MARCHED UNDER THE RED BANNER DURING THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION!

आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. प्रूडेंशियल बाजार का रूख करने वाली पहली बीमा कम्पनी

एन.के.पचौरी



आई.आर.डी.ए. एक्ट 1999 में पारित हुआ था तथा वर्ष 2000 में दीपावली के दिन एच.डी.एफ.सी. स्टैंडर्ड को भारत में जीवन बीमा का व्यापार करने का लाइसेंस प्राप्त हुआ था। उस समय एक प्रतिष्ठित वित्तीय समाचार-पत्र के संपादकीय में यह समाचार प्रकाशित हुआ था कि आई.आर.डी.ए. विधेयक पारित होने के पश्चात भारत में प्राइवेट कम्पनियाँ एल.आई.सी. को चबा जायेंगी। परन्तु ऐसा नहीं हुआ। इस समय भारत में लगभग 50 बीमा कम्पनियाँ काम कर रही हैं जिनमें से लगभग आधी जीवन बीमा के क्षेत्र में हैं परन्तु एल.आई.सी. की बाजार हिस्सेदारी प्रथम वर्ष के प्रीमियम के लिहाज से लगभग 73 प्रतिशत है। जो प्राइवेट कम्पनी दूसरे नम्बर पर है उसकी बाजार हिस्सेदारी 5 प्रतिशत के बराबर है। पालिसियों की संख्या के लिहाज से तो एल.आई.सी. की बाजार हिस्सेदारी इससे भी अधिक है। इससे पता चलता है कि सारी प्राइवेट कम्पनियों को यदि मिला भी लिया जाय तो भी वह एल.आई.सी. के करीब नहीं पहुँचतीं। आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. प्रूडेंशियल प्रथम वर्ष के प्रीमियम के अनुसार मार्च 2016 में जो वित्तीय वर्ष समाप्त हुआ उसमें उसकी हिस्सेदारी लगभग 4.88 प्रतिशत थी। मार्च 2014 व मार्च 2015 में समाप्त हुए वर्ष में तो वह 4.7 व 3.14 प्रतिशत प्रथम वर्षीय प्रीमियम की भागीदारी के साथ तृतीय स्थान पर थी। दरअसल एस.बी.आई.लाइफ, एच.डी.एफ.सी. स्टैंडर्ड व आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. प्रूडेंशियल बराबर की कम्पनियाँ हैं जिनमें प्रत्येक का शेयर लगभग 5 प्रतिशत के बराबर है। परन्तु आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. प्रूडेंशियल बाजार का रूख करने की पहली बीमा कम्पनी बन गई और 19 से 21 सितम्बर तक इसने अपना आई.पी.ओ. जारी किया। आम बीमा के क्षेत्र में भी कहानी कोई अलग नहीं है और यहां भी सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की चारों कम्पनियों की भागीदारी 50 प्रतिशत के लगभग है। सरकार ने नियमों में परिवर्तन कर स्वास्थ्य बीमा के लिये अलग क्षेत्र बना दिया है। कम्पनी व आई.पी.ओ. के बारे में कुछ विस्तार से यहां बताया जा रहा है।

आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. प्रूडेंशियल का यह आई.पी.ओ. 19 से 21 सितम्बर के मध्य जारी हुआ था। इस आई.पी.ओ. में कुल 18.13 करोड़ शेयरों की बिक्री होनी थी जिसमें 4.89 करोड़ शेयर एंकर इनवेस्टमेंट के लिये भी शामिल थे तथा 334 रूप्ये प्रति शेयर के हिसाब से एंकर इनवेस्टर को 1635.33 करोड़ रूप्ये के शेयरों का आवंटन कर दिया गया था। एक समाचार-पत्र के अनुसार आई.पी.ओ. को लगभग 10.53 गुना अधिक आवेदन प्राप्त हुए। यद्यपि इस समाचार के प्रेस में जाने तक श्रेणीवार आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं थे परन्तु ऐसा विश्वास किया जाता है कि सभी श्रेणियों के लिये अधिक आवेदन प्राप्त हुए। शेयर का न्यूनतम मूल्य 300 रूप्ये तथा अधिकतम मूल्य 334

रूप्ये रखा गया था। अधिकतम मूल्य के हिसाब से आई.पी.ओ. का आकार 6055 करोड़ रूप्ये का था तथा 2010 में सी.आई.एल. के 15000 करोड़ रूप्ये के आई.पी.ओ. के बाद यह सबसे बड़ा आई.पी.ओ. था। आई.आर.डी.ए. एक्ट के अनुसार बीमा कम्पनी 26 प्रतिशत विदेशी भागीदारी के साथ भारत में व्यापार कर सकती थी। अतः प्रारम्भ में आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. बैंक के पास 73.42 प्रतिशत की भागीदारी थी तथा ब्रिटेन की प्रूडेंशियल के पास 25.83 प्रतिशत की। नवम्बर 2015 में आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. बैंक ने 4 प्रतिशत हिस्से अजीम प्रेमजी की प्रेमजी इनवेस्ट को तथा 2.01 प्रतिशत हिस्से सिंगापुर की टैमसैक को बेच दिये गये। इस प्रकार आई.पी.ओ. जारी करने से पहले कम्पनी में आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. बैंक की हिस्सेदारी लगभग 67.42 प्रतिशत, प्रूडेंशियल की लगभग 25.83 प्रतिशत, प्रेमजीइनवेस्ट की 4.00 प्रतिशत तथा सिंगापुर की टैमसैक की लगभग 2.01 प्रतिशत थी। आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. द्वारा अपने 12.65 प्रतिशत की भागीदारी बेचने के बाद अब उसके पास केवल 55 प्रतिशत की भागीदारी बची है। यदि प्रूडेंशियल अपनी हिस्सेदारी बढ़ाकर 49 प्रतिशत करने का निर्णय लेती है तो आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. बैंक के पास केवल 32 प्रतिशत शेयर ही रह जायेंगे और इस कम्पनी पर मूलतः प्रूडेंशियल का अधिकार हो जायेगा। और यह कहानी उन सभी भारतीय स्वामियों के साथ दुहरायी जा सकती है जो अपना आई.पी.ओ. बाजार में उतारेंगी।

एक समाचार के अनुसार आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. प्रूडेंशियल का शेयर पहले 1.2 प्रतिशत तथा 29 सितम्बर को नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज में 11 प्रतिशत गिर कर बंद हुआ। इससे कम्पनी का बाजार मूल्य घटकर 42000-47000 करोड़ रूप्ये रह गया जिसका पहले 50,000 करोड़ रूप्ये होने का अनुमान लगाया गया था। आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. प्रूडेंशियल एक ऐसी बीमा कम्पनी है जो 2009 के वर्ष से शेयरधारकों को लाभांश दे रहा है। पिछले वर्ष इस कम्पनी का कर पश्चात लाभ करीब 1,653 करोड़ रूप्ये था। इससे पूर्व के वर्ष में इसका लाभ 1640.53 करोड़ रूप्ये था। इस कम्पनी के प्रबन्धन के आधीन लगभग 1 लाख करोड़ रूप्ये की सम्पत्ति है। स्विस री की सिगमा रिपोर्ट

Seminar at Hyderabad on 60 Years of LIC

A Seminar on '60 Years of LIC-Contribution to the Nation-Challenges Ahead' was conducted by Hyderabad Insurance Institute on September 10, 2016 at ZTC, Hyderabad, commemorating Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of LIC.

Com Amanulla Khan, President, AIIEA and Sri Prasad Das Gupta, RM(Mktnng), SCZ, LIC were the Theme Speakers.

In his address, Com Amanulla Khan recollected the circumstances which preceded the formation of LIC, its initial challenge in the form of 'Mundhra Affair' which was about investments by LIC in private companies and how it led to the resignation of T.T. Krishnamachary from Cabinet. The second major challenge was the major recommendation to split LIC by Era Sezhiyan Committee appointed by the Govt of India in 1979 to review the working of LIC. It was the role played by AIIEA which forced the Government to refer the recommendations to a Select Committee of Parliament and then ultimately drop the idea of splitting LIC as a result of mobilization of petitions outside of Parliament and a campaign by Com Sunil Moitra, Joint Secretary of AIIEA and MP, inside of Parliament. Com Amanulla Khan viewed this successful struggle by AIIEA as the major reason which enabled LIC to successfully meet the challenges of the competitive environment today. He also dwelled at length the challenges posed to LIC due to privatization of insurance sector and how LIC continues to dominate the life insurance market despite 16 years of competitive environment and the presence of 23 private players and all this has been made possible due to the trust of people.

A Paper on 'Life insurance Corporation of India – A Glorious Journey of 60 Years' was presented by Com Amanulla Khan on the eve of the Seminar. He

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ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has become India's first insurance company to hit capital markets. With this IPO, the shareholding of ICICI has come down to 55% from earlier 67.42%. If the Prudential company of UK decides to increase its shareholding to 49%, which is now allowed, the ICICI's will come down to only 32% and the control of this insurance company will pass on to its UK partner. This has grave implications on the public sector insurance companies, when the Govt. is on a disinvestment drive.

3/2016 के अनुसार भारत में बीमा बाजार दुनिया में दसवें स्थान पर है तथा एशिया में 5 वें स्थान पर है तथा यह आंकड़ा 2016 में कुल प्रीमियम पर आधारित है। भारत में सकल घरेलू उत्पाद की वृद्धि मार्च 2016 में 7.3 प्रतिशत थी जिसका 19.1 प्रतिशत घरेलू बचतों में गया था। उम्मीद की जा रही है कि 2016 में कुल प्रीमियम जो 3667 बिलियन रूपये था वह सन् 2021 तक 6600-6700 बिलियन रूपये तक पहुँच जायेगा।

निहितार्थ: आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. प्रूडेंशियल के आई.पी.ओ. के सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के लिये कुछ निहितार्थ हैं जिनकी ओर ध्यान दिया जाना जरूरी है। पहला तो यही है कि सरकार सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के विरुद्ध है और वह किसी तरह सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की जिम्मेदारी से मुक्त हो जाना चाहती है। इस वर्ष के बजट में भी उसने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के विनिवेश से प्राप्त राशि का लक्ष्य रखा है। अतः हमारी कोशिश होनी चाहिये कि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बीमा उद्योग की बाजार हिस्सेदारी कम न हो क्योंकि इससे नकारात्मक मनोवैज्ञानिक संदेश लोगों के बीच जायेगा जो हमारे लिये नुकसानदायक होगा। उच्चतम न्यायालय का यह निर्णय है कि जो संस्थाएं संसद के किसी विधेयक द्वारा स्थापित हुई हैं उनके स्वामित्व के ढांचे में परिवर्तन हेतु संसद के पास ही जाना चाहिये। इससे एल.आई.सी. को विनिवेश का खतरा फिलहाल नहीं है परन्तु प्राइवेट खिलाड़ियों द्वारा इसका मूल्यांकन शुरू हो गया है तथा सरकार द्वारा किसी भी समय उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्णय को अधिसूचना के आधार पर दरकिनार करने की संभावना से इन्कार नहीं किया जा सकता। ऐसी स्थिति में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के जीवन बीमा निगम एवं आम बीमा की सार्वजनिक कम्पनियों में विनिवेश का वास्तविक खतरा बढ़ जाने की संभावना है। सरकार ऐसा इसलिये कर सकती है कि एक तो वह सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के पूरी तरह विरोध में है तथा दूसरे उसे बाँट कर शासन करना आता है। पिछले दिनों वित्तमंत्री ने संकेत भी दिया है कि आम बीमा की सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कम्पनियों को वे जल्द ही सूचीबद्ध करेंगे। इससे इन कम्पनियों में विनिवेश का मार्ग खुल जायेगा। इसलिये इन्श्योरेन्स लॉज (अमेंडमेंट) एक्ट 2014 का विरोध वरीयता के आधार पर किया जाना चाहिये।





A Conference of Consolidation of Organisation

The 21st General Conference of WZIEA held at Nasik from 17 to 20 September 2016 was the historic Conference and memorable for a number of reasons like participation, level of debate and the very efficient organization by the host Nasik Divisional Unit.

Magnificent Rally

As a prelude to the conference, the comrades from Nagpur and Satara had taken out jathas covering large parts of Maharashtra highlighting the achievements of LIC in the nation building exercise as also campaigning against the anti people policies of both the Modi government at the centre and Fadnavis government in Maharashtra.

An impressive rally was taken through the busy thoroughfares of Nasik. Perhaps it was one of the biggest and disciplined rally with enthusiastic participation of representatives of all 22 divisions in the Zone. Around 900 Comrades including 223 mahila comrades in red sarees participated in colorful rally. This was very impressive programme. Enroute, the rally was greeted by a number of trade unions and other fraternal organizations.

On the rally reaching the venue, Com V S Nalavade, President WZIEA hoisted the flag of WZIEA. Thereafter leadership of AIIEA /WZIEA gave respectful homage to the martyrs.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session commenced with Com V.S.Nalvade in the Chair. The delegates and observers were welcome by Dr. D L Karad, Chairman of the Reception Committee and General Secretary of CITU Maharashtra. Com Karad while welcoming the audience, informed them about the historic importance of the city of Nasik. He also lauded the role of LIC in the national economy and the struggles of AIIEA in advancement of democratic and trade

union rights.

Com. Amanulla Khan, President, AIIEA inaugurated the conference. In his Inaugural speech he spoke at length about the present global crisis and the economic, political and social crisis which have aggravated after the coming to power by the Modi government. He ridiculed the claims of economic growth where jobs are not created. He was critical of the retrograde social policy of the government that aims to divide the people on the basis of religion, language and region. Pointing out to the unity built by AIIEA among insurance employees across the country including in Kashmir and North East, he expressed concern over the situation in Kashmir and made it clear that the issue of Kashmir can be resolved only through a political process and not through a military effort. Dealing with the industry, he pointed out to the growth in the last 60 years, the success of efforts by AIIEA in wage revision and the challenges confronting both the industry and the organization. He exhorted the delegates and observers to make all out efforts to strengthen the WZIEA.

Com. Dr. Ajit Abhyankar President, CITU, Pune Dist. addressed the Conference & shared very exciting information on nationalisation of the economy. This is dangerous because finance capital resist any control and has become independent from the process of production. Finance has become speculative and thereby threaten to destabilize the economies. In such a situation, dependence on foreign capital is very harmful and therefore efforts must be made to harness the domestic savings by strengthening institutions like LIC.

Com.V Ramesh, General Secretary, AIIEA congratulated the employees for remaining steadfast with AIIEA & due to it we could achieve excellent wage revision in difficult situation. He elaborated

the circumstances in which capitalism is facing the crises. It has created massive unemployment & due to it, rights & benefits of working class are attacked. The wages pension & social security's measures are under attack in the name of austerity measures. He informed that two years of Modi Government Rule has been disaster for the working class & for the poor people. He congratulated WZIEA Comrades for the wonderful arrangements & colourful Rally.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor of the City Mr Gurumeet Bagga, MLC, president INTUC Maharashtra Com. Jayprakash Chhajed, Com Chandulal Shah & Senior Divisional Manager Mr Pradeep Shenoy expressed their greetings to the conference.

Delegate Session

The Delegates Session commenced in the morning on 18 September, 2016. A total 243 delegates and observers attended this session. On behalf of the Working Committee, General Secretary of WZIEA presented the report of the Working Committee before the Conference for discussion.

The report was comprehensive and dealt with the issues relating to the effect of neo-liberal after 25 years and the crises of capitalism, aspects of International and National events, Industrial developments, Struggle of Insurance Employees under the banner of AIIEA, Wage Revision, recruitment, pension, Problem of RPTs and other employees related issues. 46 delegates participated in the debate and expressed their views on the report.

The General Secretary while summing up the debate called upon the members and cadres of AIIEA to utilize the victories scored for consolidation of the Organisation. He called upon the divisional units to organise various programmes to activate the cadre to build the strong organization in the Zone. He also proposed some programmes to build ideologically strong organization. He congratulated the Nasik unit for holding the conference in the magnificent manner. He also appreciated some of the units for their commitment to fight against rival unions who do not believe in the path of struggle. After summing up, the report was unanimously accepted by the house. Then after treasurer of WZIEA presented the accounts for the calendar year 2013, 2014 and 2015 which were passed by the house unanimously.

AIIEA Leadership in Delegate session

In the delegate session the conference was given valuable guidance by the leadership of AIIEA.

Com. Amanulla Khan, President, AIIEA addressed the delegate session on 18 September 2016. He started his speech condemning the attack by terrorist on our soldiers at URI sector of Kashmir. He said that

today is very sad day because our 17 soldiers died in the attack. There after he very analytically explained in detail the global situation today and what will be the future of India. He gave various examples of movement of workers & trade unions in freedom struggle. He said that while working in trade union we should always hope for the best. He stressed on unity, struggle and achievement. The Neo-liberal policies have also created massive inequalities in the society. The Government is also following divisive policies. We should fight these policies to protect the working class & nation.

Com. V Ramesh, General Secretary, AIIEA addressed the delegate session and informed that "We have achieved recruitment of Class 4 and up gradation of RPTs; our efforts to secure another pension option and recruitment in class 3 are going on". He informed the house that how we are taking tactical line in various wage revision achieved in past. In his 1 hour 20 minute speech he gave all the information to the house regarding our success in various issues. He appealed LIC employees to remain in struggle for better future of LIC employees.

Com. R.N.Patne, Ex-President, WZIEA spoke on organization. He congratulated on success of 2nd September Strike He informed Automation Struggle, Labour Laws, Pension Struggle & CGIT. He discussed highlights of AIIEA history.

Com V S Nalvade President, WZIEA said that this conference is the true example of democracy. He said that he learned socialism in 1996 when he attended Madurai conference of AIIEA. He made an appeal to the delegates and observers to do all for AIIEA.

A souvenir was released by Com V.Ramesh to commemorate the 21st General Conference.

Cultural Program

On 19.09.2016 a fantastic cultural program was organised by the host unit which was enjoyed by the Delegates & Observers.

The conference has adopted 16 resolutions on issues relating to the industry and many on issues of national importance. They include the issues relating to recruitment in LIC, Disinvestment of public sector general insurance companies, Improvement in promotion policy, Issues of Unorganized sector workers, Government policy on pension, absorption of CGIT temporary employees in LIC, absorption of remaining Part Time employees, improvements in Pension Scheme 1995, demanding recognition of AIIEA in LIC, Against Price rise, collective bargaining right, Guest accommodation in Mumbai/Thane, Inter division transfers, solution to problems of Cashiers,



Posting of sports person on promotion, Opening of Solapur Division, Updation of Pension, Demand for 30% straight rate for Family Pension.

The Conference unanimously elected Com V.S.Nalvade as President, Com H.I.Bhat as General Secretary and Com A.S.Prajapati as Treasurer for the ensuing term.

The Conference also recorded its appreciation for the magnificent contribution of comrades who relinquished their positions as office bearers. Com T.K.Chakraborty, Organising Secretary, Com Mahesh Yagnik and C.S.Dalvi, Vice-Presidents had made immense contribution to the functioning and growth of the organization.

The Conference thanked the comrades of Nasik Division for the tireless efforts spanning over months to make this conference a truly historic and memorable one. The dedication of the volunteers came in for lot of appreciation. There was also appreciation for a very good cultural program organized on 19th September.

The conference concluded with confidence and enthusiasm. It was clear in the process of discussions that the organization is confronted with huge challenges. But the conference derived hope and confidence from the commitment and unquestionable loyalty of the membership to the

12th Conference of EZGIEA at Guwahati

The 12th Biennial Conference of Eastern Zone General Insurance Employees' Association (EZGIEA) was held at Guwahati from 27th to 29th August 2016. It was a befitting display of organizational strength and discipline. The conference started with hoisting of the flag of AIIEA by com. Sunil Kumar, President of EZGIEA followed by paying of floral tribute at the Martyr's column by the leaders of AIIEA, EZGIEA and other fraternal trade unions. The open session of the conference was attended by about 300 employees and it started with the welcome address by the Chairman, Reception Committee Dr. Sitanath Lehtar, former Principal of Cotton College, Guwahati. Com. J Gurumurthy, Vice President, AIIEA in his

inaugural address elucidated the current situation of the industry vis-à-vis the all round economic condition of the country. He stressed the need of broader unity and struggle against the onslaught on lives and livelihood of the common people of the country, which has been unleashed by the present government at the centre on the pretext of economic reforms and nationalism. He exhorted the employees to make the strike of 2nd September, 2016 a grand success along with other central TUs, independent federations and unions. A good number of fraternal TUs' representatives greeted the conference.

The presence of new members (who joined the industry since 2013 and enrolled with AIIEA) in a good number was noteworthy. That included more than six ex-servicemen comrades. The Report of the Working Committee and accounts were placed by com. Goutam Maitra, Gen. Sec. and com. Dilip Kansabanik, treasurer of the zone respectively in the delegate session of the conference. As many as 31 delegates, including 5 women delegate, took part in the discussion on the report and accounts. The General Secretary summed up the discussion and reiterated the resolve of the organization to fight any attempt of the government to weaken the PSGI companies and to protect rights and interest of the employees. He suggested continuing efforts, with all seriousness, of building and strengthening the organization. The Report and Accounts were adopted unanimously by the conference.

Com. Amanulla Khan, President, AIIEA, addressed the delegate session during his couple of interventions. His address was a treat to the intellect of the audience when he explained how the discredited policy of



promoting and incentivizing the big corporates and the over obsession of rulers with growth rate as a reflection of prosperous economic development all over the world, has resulted in present economic crisis worldwide and has resulted in impoverishment of common masses. He said, present NDA govt. was also following the same policy and therefore workers needed to fight back and 2nd September 2016 presents the workers this scope.

Com. K V V S N Raju, the Secretary, Standing Committee also intervened during the delegate session and gave industry updates and informed about the efforts being made by AIIEA to meet the employees' demands.

The conference unanimously elected for the ensuing term, Com. Surajit Das, Com. Sanjay Jha and Com. Dilip Kansabanik as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Annual Conference of Bangalore Divisions I & II

The Insurance Corporation Employees' Unions, Bangalore Divisions I & II jointly held their Annual General Conference on 2nd and 3rd October 2016 at Bangalore. This was an important conference for more than one reason; it was the Diamond Jubilee Year of ICEU, Bangalore I and Silver Jubilee Year of ICEU, Bangalore II; and it was also the Diamond Jubilee Year of LIC, the finest public sector financial institution built through the sweat and toil of its workforce. Therefore, the Conference generated lot of enthusiasm and nearly 800 delegates and observers thronged to the venue for the inaugural session.

Preceding the inaugural session, the delegates and observers gathered to witness the raising of the AIIEA flag by Com P.Nagendra, President, ICEU, Bangalore II accompanied by thunderous slogans reverberating the air. The women comrades of Oriental Base Unit and Malleswaram Base units presented two revolutionary songs to mark the occasion.

The inaugural sessions commenced with Coms P.Nagendra and D.Suresh, Presidents of the two divisional units forming the presidium. Com TPN Murthy, Joint Secretary, Bangalore II welcomed the gathering. Com S.K.Geetha, General Secretary, Bangalore I placed the homage resolution.

Inaugurating the historic conference, Com Clement Xavier Das, General Secretary, SCZIEF complimented the two divisions for their dedicated organisational activities and very many innovative programs to protect and advance the interests of the institution. He congratulated the units for the magnificent response to the 2nd September 2016 general strike demanding a fair deal to the workers and the poor and a reversal of the neo-liberal economic

policies. Touching upon the issues of the industry, he pointed out that despite the phenomenal role LIC is playing in the national development, the government is keen to weaken this institution and the threat of privatisation looms large. He asked the delegates and observers to take all efforts to strengthen the AIIEA to meet the enormous challenges confronting the institution and organisation.

Com B.S.Ravi, Treasurer, AIIEA enthralled the audience with his simple and erudite presentation of the national issues and the problems of the industry. He pointed out that today the government is trying to undermine the unity of the workers through its divisive agenda. This conspiracy has to be exposed and the workers have to be united both against neo-liberalism and the divisive politics. Coms B.Prem Kumar, General Secretary, Bangalore Region General Insurance Employees' Association and G.K.Gangadhar, General Secretary, Insurance Corporation Pensioners' Association, Bangalore greeted the conference.

Speaking in the inaugural conference, Com Amanulla Khan, President, AIIEA recalled the glorious contributions and sacrifices of a number of leaders, cadres and ordinary employees in building the two units of Bangalore as the front ranking divisional units of the AIIEA. Giving details of the progress made by LIC in the last 60 years, he pointed out that both LIC and the AIIEA are facing serious threats due to the government policies. The neo-liberalism which is premised on privatisation of the public assets is threatening LIC while the anti-workers policies in the name of reforming labour laws is a threat not just to the AIIEA but to the entire trade union movement of the country. Com Aman said the biggest gain of



the last wage revision was the establishment of the principle that wage in LIC has to be determined on the basis of the strength of the institution. He said that AIIEA could bring a number of benefits to the employees in the form of housing loan, improvement in PLII etc. arguing on the basis of the financial strength of LIC. He said another Pension Option is a serious demand and AIIEA is doggedly pursuing it. Though LIC has sent its positive recommendations to the government on this issue more than once, the government is refusing to take any decision. He also said that the agreed issues of 5 day week, PL accumulation etc are also pending notification by the government and this clearly shows the anti-employee stand of the government and the issues have to be forced through struggles. He cautioned that today attempts are being made to divide the workers in the name of caste, religion, language and region in order to weaken the working class resistance to neo-liberal economic policies. The need is to understand the conspiracy and defeat it to protect the unity of the working class and the nation itself. He asked the two units to take all steps to educate the employees and build a still stronger organisation both in terms of numbers and political understanding.

The inaugural session came to a successful close with a vote of thanks by Com R.Padmanabha, Joint Secretary, Bangalore I.

In the delegates' session, the Report of the Executive Committees was placed. The Report covered all the important events impacting the working class movement across the globe and within our country. The Report also elaborately detailed the issues of the industry and the industrial problems of the two divisions. There was lively discussion on the Report. Nearly 40 comrades participated in the debate and enriched the understanding of the conference. The significant feature of the debate was the participation of over 20 women. These comrades cogently placed their views on the international

developments, their impact on India and its working class and the necessity to unify the organisation on the basis of a correct political understanding. Com Amanulla Khan and Com B.S.Ravi intervened in the debate and placed their views on the current political and economic environment and the need to build the unity of the working class. The Report was unanimously adopted after Com S.K.Geetha, General Secretary summed up the debate.

The Conference also approved unanimously the Statements of Accounts presented by Coms S.R.Deepak and B.N. Yashoda, the Treasurers of Bangalore I and II respectively. The Conference approved a number of resolutions on subjects important nationally and issues relating to the industry.

The Conference unanimously elected Coms D.Suresh, S.K.Geetha and Venkat Reddy as the President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively of ICEU, Bangalore I for the ensuing term. Similarly Coms P.Nagendra, K.Gopal and B.N. Yashoda were unanimously elected as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively of ICEU, Bangalore II for the ensuing term.

Foundation laid for Union Office

On 3rd morning, in an impressive function, the foundation was laid for the construction of the Union Office at Bangalore by Com Amanulla Khan President, AIIEA in the presence of Sri Manjunath Reddy, former Mayor of city of Bangalore and other zonal and divisional leaders. The plans to construct the building were delayed as the organisation refused to compromise with the system and decided to fight. Finally, the plan is sanctioned and licence is issued to construct the building. It is hoped that the units of AIIEA will have a new union office in the next one year. The conference appealed to all employees and well wishers to make generous contribution to complete this dream project.

Annual General Conference of Amravati Division LICEU



Amravati Divisional LIC Employees' Union's 18th Annual General Conference was held at Amravati on 28.08.2016 with full enthusiasm. Com. HI Bhatt, Gen. Secretary, WZIEA inaugurated the conference & addressed the conference on

various issues like current political and economical situation of the country, how AIIEA achieved wage revision and subsequent benefits like housing loan, PLII, MEDICLAIM etc. He informed in detail about 25 years of neo- liberal policy and anti labour policies of government.

Com R.N. Patne, Ex. President, WZIEA addressed the conference and spoke about history of AIIEA. Around 200 comrades were present in the conference. Some Managers and class 1 officers were also present in the meeting. Conference concluded with the confidence to fight & struggle against Neo- liberal and Anti workers policies of Government.

Com. Nitin Dafle was elected as President, Com. Ravindra Dhumale as a General Secretary and Com. Sanjay Dhawale as Treasurer by conference.

Diamond Jubilee Year Conference of Gauhati Div.IEA

The 57th (Diamond Jubilee Year) Annual General Conference of Gauhati Divisional Insurance Employees' Association (GDIEA) was held at Guwahati on 24th & 25th September, 2016. The conference got off to flying start with the unfurling of the red flag of AIEEA by com. Birendra kr. Sarma, President, GDIEA amid enthusiastic slogans and placing of floral wreaths on the martyr's column by the leaders, delegates and observers. The delegates session was started at 10 AM of 24th September with a beautiful chorus performed by the cultural unit of GDIEA. A presidium consisting of com. Birendra Kr. Sarma, Com Geeta Pegu, com. Mukul Kr. Das and com. Lankeswar Das conducted the delegate session. General secretary Bhabendra Kr. Kalita placed a 52 page Working Committee Report and Treasurer Umesh Das placed the audited accounts report. A colorful procession was organized at 2 PM from divisional office, LIC Fancy Bazaar to the venue of the conference "Institution of Engineers (India)" at Panbazar. Signifying 60 years of the association sixty red flags carried by sixty comrades (thirty men & thirty women) led the procession which was flagged off by com. Satanjib Das, President, EZIEA.

The open session of the conference was started at 3 PM. In his speech as guest in chief com. K. Venu Gopal, vice president, AIEEA highlighted the role of AIEEA to clinch an outstanding wage settlement. He also pointed out the grave challenges posed by the neo liberal economic policies pursued aggressively by the present government which are aimed at maximizing the profit of a few big corporates, both indigenous and foreign and heaping back breaking burdens on the working people. Com.K Venugopal said that despite recommendations of LIC on another



pension option, the issue remains unresolved due to government's adamant attitude. He said this demand has to be achieved through struggles. Com. Amitendra Chatterjee, vice president EZIEA also addressed the open session. From fraternal trade unions com. Biren Sarma, CITU, Garga Talukdar, JCTU (Assam), Sambhu Dutta, LIC pensioners association, Pramatesh Baruah, NFIFWI, Mahesh Kumar, LIC class-I officers federation, Naren Sarma, BEF (NER) Dwijendra Nath Debnath, NFPE, Harmohan Talukdar, ASESU, Ramesh Goswami, ASGEF and Subhrangshu Deb, NERGIEA were present. Retired members of the association were felicitated in the open session.

The delegates' session was concluded at 5 PM of 25th September. Addressing the delegates' session com. K. Venugopal explained the pending issues in details and also stressed on the campaign on seat and campaign at the street for protection of public sector insurance. 23 delegates representing all the base units participated in the debate on the working committee report. Both the working committee report and the audited accounts report were adopted unanimously. The conference adopted 10 resolutions which include protection of the public sector insurance, recognition of AIEEA, construction of LIC's own building, lease house facility for assistant, RC & sub-staff, Recruitment of class III and IV, one more option for pension and against curtailment of special status for Assam and against auction of oil fields and promulgation of ESMA in oil fields and oil & gas companies.

The conference elected a 50 member working committee with Birendra Kr. Sarma as President, Bhabendra kr. Kalita as General Secretary and Umesh Das as Treasurer.

A heart enthralling cultural function and a family get together was held on the evening of 25th September 2016.



Diamond Jubilee Year Conference of Coimbatore Division

The 57th annual conference of Insurance Corporation Employees Union, Coimbatore Division which is the Diamond Jubilee Year was held on 1st and 2nd October 2016 at Coimbatore. The Conference commenced with three group songs rendered by the comrades hailing the achievements and ideology of AIIEA, which reverberated the venue.



emphasized the need for a sustained and vibrant struggle against the neo-liberal economic reforms and communal agenda of the BJP Government by mobilizing people and building a consistent movement.

Com.M.Gajendran, President of ICEU, Coimbatore Division presided over the conference. Com V Ramesh, General Secretary, AIIEA inaugurated the Conference. He lauded the contribution rendered by the senior comrades of the Division which has made us take pride in being an employee of LIC and member of the great AIIEA, which was the pioneer of the struggle to protect the LIC in public sector. He also narrated how the Government's reform agenda is trying to destabilize the public sector LIC & GIC. He

Com.M.Girija, Joint Secretary, AIIEA, Com. K Kunnikrishnan, President, SZIEF, Com T Senthil Kumar, General Secretary, SZIEF, Com. I K Biju, President, LICEU, Kozhikode Division & Com. A Kaliyaperumal, General Secretary, Salem Division greeted the Conference.

The Conference felicitated the comrades who worked as office bearers of ICEU, Coimbatore Division. The entire gathering was emotive when the senior leaders who led ICEU, Coimbatore Division and were instrumental in making this unit as one of the vibrant units of AIIEA were felicitated and honoured. Comrades who retired from the services



Diamond Jubilee year conference of DIEA Jalpaiguri

Coochbehar Base unit accepted the challenge to host the Diamond Jubilee year conference of DIEA, Jalpaiguri. It was extremely difficult for them to host the conference not only because of the less number of employees and also huge infrastructural deficiencies but after the state assembly elections in West Bengal, Coochbehar became the target of attack of the ruling party and over 1000 left supporters had to leave their houses and properties and stay in the camps. The entire Trade Union and Democratic movement started facing horrifying attacks. In that situation, the strength of the ideological preaching of AIIEA, the glorious legacy of DIEA, Jalpaiguri of overcoming terrors of 1960s and semi-fascist terrors of 1970s tuned all the members of Coochbehar base and every family member of the employees for accepting and meeting the challenge of hosting the conference in brilliant manner and transformed the Diamond Jubilee Year Conference into Conference of Confidence.

It was after a long gap that the dwellers of Coochbehar could see an All Red Rally marching with their own slogans and the goons were restricted only in damaging some posters when the glittering Diamond Jubilee Year Rally was marching forward.

51 students and youth along with a good number of women, Govt Employees and Pensioners from Coochbehar and suburb areas worked tirelessly to make the conference an all-round success.

The huge gathering in the inaugural session was amazingly inspired to see comrade Chandra Shekhar Bose, at the age of 94, when he took the charge of the podium to inaugurate the conference. Going down the memory lane Com. Chandra Shekhar Bose also dealt with the history of the trade union movements of the Coochbehar. While he explained very lucidly the task before us when the existence





of LIC after the last conference were also felicitated. More than 750 comrades including 300 women and 80 pensioners participated and made the inaugural session of the Diamond Jubilee Year Conference a grand success.

The General Council meeting commenced immediately after the completion of inaugural session. Com V Ramesh greeted the delegates and observers. In his inspiring speech he cautioned how the four pillars of the democracy is under serious attack from the present authoritarian BJP regime led by Modi. He urged the need for the leaders and cadres to understand the dangers and be ideologically equipped and politically strong to fight this onslaught.

Com V Suresh, General Secretary, ICEU, Coimbatore Division placed the Secretary's report. 13 Comrades including 3 women participated in the debate and enriched the report. Zonal Vice Presidents Com K Swaminathan, Com R.Dharmalingam & Com

Sarvamangala, Joint Secretary, SZIEF intervened in the debate. The Delegate session was greeted by Com S V Shankar, Vice President GIEA-SZ, Com. P.Mahendra Kumar, LIC Class I Officers Association and Com.N.Guru Rao, Secretary, LIC Pensioners Association, Coimbatore Division. The Secretary's report and the statement of accounts were adopted unanimously.

The conference gave a clarion call to strengthen the campaign and movements to protect LIC from the Government's attempt to destabilize this Premier Public Sector Insurance company. The Conference also decided to strengthen LIC Agents force by helping to identify and recruit at least one new agent by each member and gave the slogan "EACH ONE CATCH ONE".

The Conference elected Com M Gajendran, Com K.Thulasitharan & Com. K Manikandan as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the ensuing term. 20 resolutions including withdrawal of Service Tax on Insurance Premium and protection of LIC and GIC in Public Sector were passed unanimously. The conference concluded with the newly elected General Secretary Com. K Thulasitharan proposing vote of thanks.



of LIC as public sector is being put under a serious challenge, he also set the responsibility of the Trade Union Movement as a whole amidst the attack on the working class movement as a whole. Com V. Ramesh, General Secretary AIIEA increased the enthusiasm of the session. The gathering of employees accepted his presence with gratitude as recognition from AIIEA towards the organizational activities of DIEA, Jalpaiguri. Com. Ramesh in a simple and well articulated manner explained how the present Govt. was different in executing the agenda of neo-liberal policies with a clear intention

to attack the Public Sector character of LIC. The policy which propounds "Public Sector Janam Leta Hai Marne Ke Liye" is certainly a very serious challenge to be met successfully. He congratulated DIEA, Jalpaiguri for continuing policyholder and agent oriented campaigns beautifully. He also explained how the divisive, communal, and irrational agenda of RSS are causing severe detriment to the unity of the country which too must be fought along with our ongoing struggle against the economic exploitation and social oppression. Com Jayanta Mukherjee, General Secretary, EZIEA, while greeting the inaugural session, congratulated DIEA, Jalpaiguri for their outstanding participation in the 2nd September 2016 Strike - the strike which could instill huge confidence among the working class to initiate a policy change. He asserted that 180 million people have directly struck the NDA Govt.'s policies and the number of strikers exceeded the total number of votes secured by the present NDA Govt.

In the inaugural session, com. V. Ramesh felicitated Mr. Sagar Saha, who became the number one Development Officer in count of NOP in the Financial Year 2015-16, and Sri Bapan Ghosh, who topped the Zone as agent in count of NOP for the same Financial Year, from a small rural Branch. The

▷ from previous page **DIEA Jalpaiguri**

inaugural session was greeted by the representatives of Class I Officers' Federation, NFIFWI, LIAFI and LICAIOI along with the fraternal TUs.

39 delegates participated in a very living and worthy debate on the report placed by Com. Debabrata Choudhury, General Secretary.

In the delegate session, Com. Chandra Sekhar Bose explained how the over all scenario was becoming difficult day by day, particularly in West Bengal and asked for strengthening of organization to meet the big challenges confronting insurance employees. Com. V. Ramesh, General Secretary AIIEA while addressing the delegate session apart from guiding the conference on the larger issues discussed every issue of the employees – RPT, Pension Option, Recruitment, Diamond Jubilee Gift, 5-day week and other pending issues. He explained how difficult it was to secure even those demands which have been approved by the LIC boards because of the hostile

attitude of the Govt. which was politically motivated to create resentment against AIIEA. He said that AIIEA was confident to secure the pending issues, if necessary the ensuing AIIEA conference would decide for agitational programmes on the issues like Recruitment, RPT etc. Com. Jayanta Mukherjee and Com. Haridas Saha – General Secretary and Assistant Secretary of EZIEA also addressed the delegate session. The conference was greeted by veteran leader of the organisation Com. Pulak Ranjan Roy.

The Conference unanimously adopted the report after General Secretary, Com. Debabrata Chowdhury summed up the debate.

Before the conference ended with the chorus "we shall overcome ..." the conference unanimously elected 49 working committee members including 7 honourary members with Com. Asim Kumar Nandy , Com. Debabrata Chowdhury and Com. Akhil Kumar Mandal were elected as the President , General Secretary and Treasurer of the organization respectively .

Diamond Jubilee Year Conference of Cuttack Division IEA

".....On behalf of the AIIEA, on behalf of the General Secretary of AIIEA I convey the greetings to you, because you are one of the diamonds of the ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION....." were the words of Com K Venugopal, Vice-President AIIEA who, amidst deafening cheering and applause, greeted the packed audience present in the large hall of the Sarala Bawan, Cuttack on the historic open session of the Diamond Jubilee Conference of the Cuttack Division Insurance Employees' Association.

Prior to the Open session Conference got off to an electrifying start with a mammoth procession of nearly 400 comrades including a good number of women. Notably the participation of the comrades of the Bhadrak base unit in white uniform with the badges of the special logo of the conference inscribed made the rally all the more colourful. At the venue of the inaugural session, Com S Dattagupta, President, CDIEA hoisted the AIIEA's flag followed by floral homage at the Martyrs' Column with thunderous slogan. Our comrades of the headquarter units rendered two beautiful songs spreading the message of universality and plurality of India which touched the hearts of one and all present inside the hall.

In the Open Session in his welcome address, Sri Jagannath Pattnaik, former Advocate General of Odisha, Ex-President- Bar Council of India, the Honorary Chairman of the Reception Committee, narrated the historical and cultural heritage of



Cuttack. Recalling his long association with the CDIEA, he was of praise of CDIEA for ever remaining in the forefront of all struggles and guiding the working class movement in Odisha.

In his hour-long inaugural address Com K Venugopal, Vice-President AIIEA, made a succinct analysis of the performance of the public sector insurance companies –both life and general. He lashed out at the government for pursuing divisive policies and in a spree to appease the industrial houses of the country. All the issues of the country concerning the vast masses of the country have taken a back seat, while people are made to confront with gau-raksha, nationalism, intolerance, love jihad and the likes. He described LIC as rarest of rare institution

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in the country which has fulfilled all objectives of nationalisation. With the passage of the FDI bill in the parliament, he impressed upon the members of the CDIEA to be more vigilant as the struggle in the days to come will all the more difficult.

Com Sreekanta Mishra, Gen Secy, ECZIEA, in his inimitable style lambasted the government for attempting to divide the Indian society in the name of caste, community and religion. Quoting from Gopabandhu and Gorakh Pande he brought home the inherent meaning of nationalism, humanity and freedom and how different are those being brazenly propagated by the present ruling class day in and out using the capitalist owned and controlled various mass media. Quoting verses from the Bhagawat Gita he emphasised that no religion is above humanism. He passionately recollected the efforts of the past leaders of the CDIEA and the agony and endurance they had to pass through to build up such a mighty organisation.

Com. Banshidhar Mohanty- the octogenarian leader, Com.Dusmanta Kumar Das, Joint Convener, Orissa Shramika Karmachari Ekata Manch(OSKEM), Com. Rajib Lochan Dash-President, SDLIEA, Com. Kishore Chandra Mishra, Joint Secretary, BDIEA, Com. Satryabrata Pattnaik, General Secretary, BDLIEA & Com. Manas Ranjan Pattnaik, General Secretary, OSGIEA, Sj. Mohini Charan Senapati, General Secretary, Class-I Officer Federation, Sj. Shankar Prasad Parichha, Sr. Divisional Manager, LIC of India, Cuttack Division spoke and greeted the gatherings.

The open session witnessed emotional moments when our loving, respected office bearers and senior comrades were felicitated on the historic Diamond Jubilee celebration of CDIEA. After the adjournment of the open session by the President, cultural presentation took place with Odissi dance performed by the local artists which enthralled the audience

On the 22nd August in the delegate session that took place in the SNS Memorial hall, Jobra, the General Secretary and the Treasurer of CDIEA



presented respectively the Annual report and the audited statements of accounts for the corresponding period. Delegates from all the 20 base units discussed about the report including two women comrades. The rich deliberations clearly showed the maturity of the organization. Intervening in the debate Com Sreekanta Mishra, Gen Secy., ECZIEA, besides others, discussed yet-to-be-clinched employees' issues and cautioned the house to be ready for struggles. Following a spirited reply to the debate by Com. M G Barik, Gen. Secy, the report was adopted unanimously. The statements of accounts presented before the house by Com. P K Nayak, Treasurer, were also approved by the house with some corrections in the printing. The conference adopted as many as 17 resolutions on industrial and national issues.

For the ensuing term the conference elected Comrades S Duttgupta, M G Barik and P K Nayak as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

In fine, the 60th Annual General Conference of CDIEA was a conference of challenges, where confidence was expressed to march forward with steely determination and rock like conviction to defeat the onslaught of every attack on the working class in general and on the people of our country in particular.

Glorious Diamond Jubilee Conference of ICEU, Madurai Division

The Diamond Jubilee Conference of ICEU, Madurai Division was held at Madurai from 24th to 26th of Sep. 2016 in a magnificent manner. The venue of the Conference was named after the veteran Leader Com. R. Narayanan. The Conference was preceded by a wide range of novel campaigns to take the message of the conference among the public.

Essay Competition and Oratorical Competition were held for College Students in as many as 16

centres under the topic, "Role of LIC in Nation's Growth", "25 years of Globalisation" and "people's unity". There was widespread response from the





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Madurai Division

students and colleges.

The Conference had its reverberating start a week back with an innovative and vibrant campaign, Walkathon, named "LIC WALK" to protect LIC and serve India better. This unique programme was inaugurated by Mr. Shylesh Kumar Yadhav, Commissioner of Police, Madurai City. He pointed out that he felt proud to be a policyholder of LIC and that LIC is in the heart of the people even though many private players have come today. Senior Divisional Manager Mr. P.J. Nicholson inaugurated the Walkathon highlighting the splendid performance of LIC in its diamond jubilee year of operation and the pivotal role of AIIEA to take the campaign to protect LIC to the people of this country. Marketing Manager, Mr. G. Karuppasamy and other senior officials, employees, agents, development officers and wide range of public right from school students to elders took active part in this victorious campaign. The main streets of Madurai were flooded with employees, fraternal trade union leaders and public as early as 6 o' clock in the morning on 18th of September 2016. Apollo Speciality Hospitals had extended their medical aid and provided health drink to all the participants. This grand programme concluded with garlanding of Mahatma Gandhi statue at Gandhi Museum by Com.N. Nanmaran, Ex MLA of Madurai and Reception Committee Chairman of the Diamond Jubilee Conference. This memorable programme has left an ever lasting impact in the history of ICEU, Madurai Division.

"People's Unity Kalai Malai" was organized at Bethaniapuram, a busy area mostly surrounded by a large number of workers, on 21st of Sep. 2016. This cultural programme started with "thappattam" played by comrades of ICEU, Madurai. Then it was followed by variety of events from revolutionary songs sung by com Karisal Karunanithi, Special Address by Com. N. Nanmaran and Kavingar Nandalala. The highlight of the evening event

was the Fire-Dance by Com. Limbo Kesavan. People's Theatre- The art troupe predominantly led by AIIEA members which conducted street play and stage drama in TamilNadu in 1970s and 80s. The artistes of People's Theatre and renowned writer, Com. C. Subbarao working in CBO-2 Branch of Madurai were felicitated.

DELEGATES SESSION

The Delegate Session began at 4.30 pm on 24th of Sep. 2016. Com. G. Meenakshisundaram, President, ICEU, Madurai Division hoisted the flag amidst thunderous slogans. Com. R. Dharmalingam, Vice-President, SZIEF inaugurated the Conference. He highlighted the prevailing situation inside and outside our industry and exhorted that we need to be prepared to take our movement forward in the days to come. Com. N.P. Rameshkannan introduced the General Secretary Report to the house and as many as 31 comrades including 9 women took part in the debate and enriched the report and the report was adopted unanimously. The experience of 60 years of vibrant activity was reflected in the deliberations. The Statement of Accounts was presented by Com. P. Mahalingam and the same was adopted. A Special session on "New Education Policy" was arranged and Com. N. Mani, Professor of Erode Arts & Science College delivered Special Address. He dealt with intricate aspects of the draft report at length and breadth and the audience were highly benefitted. Com. Amanulla Khan gave Special Address in the Delegate Session. He narrated the current situation in Indian Society and dealt at length the challenges confronting LIC of India and instilled confidence to be organizationally prepared to meet the challenges. South Zone leaders, Comrades M. Kunhikrishnan, T. Senthilkumar, K. Swaminathan, S. Sivasubramanian, R. Punniamoorthy and Comrades M. Pushparajan, MRGIEA, C. Chandrasekaran, AIIPA, H. Sankarakrishnan, LIC CI- I Federation, AL. Sethuram, NFIFWI, K. Thavamani, LICAIOI greeted on the occasion. 13 resolutions including the one



to exempt service tax on LIC premium were passed. Comrades G.Meenakshisundaram, N. P. Ramesh kannan, P. Mahalingam were elected as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

OPEN SESSION

The open session of this victorious conference was held on 25th of September. Com. G. Meenakshisundaram, President presided over the open session. The Conference turned out to be memorable one with presence of a galaxy of former leaders of ICEU Madurai Division. The rich tradition with outstanding leaders and their sacrifice laid the foundation for the amazing victorious journey of six decades and this was reflected in the Diamond Jubilee Conference. Com. N. Nanmaran Reception Committee Chairman delivered Welcome Address. The Special Address was given by Com Amanulla Khan. He highlighted the impact of the 25 years of globalisation policies on the common masses and explained in detail that the present BJP Government is speeding up the pace of reforms favouring the corporates and is very hostile to working class. He pointed out that the unity of the People of India is under attack in the name of religion, language and caste. He exhorted that the insurance employees should understand the looming danger in working class perspective and instilled confidence to bring

about People's Unity. Comrades R.Deivaraj, CITU, M. Kunhikrishnan and T. Senthilkumar from SZIEF and Comrades S. Selvaraj and C. Muthukumarasamy, General Secretary of Thanjavur and Tirunelveli Divisions respectively greeted the conference. The felicitation of former office bearers took place in an emotional and momentous manner. Com. K. Swaminathan presented the felicitation in an exciting manner and the entire house was spellbound and acknowledged gratefulness to the former leaders. The leaders were almost in tears while accrediting the marvelous growth of Madurai Division. It is the rarest of the rare occasion very much cherished by the entire participants of the Conference. An amount of Rs. 3.45 lacs towards All India Conference of AIIEA and donation to Insurance Worker for Rs.30,000/- were handed over to Com. Amanulla Khan and a donation of Rs. 5,000/- for Kapeettu Uzhiar was handed over to the Editorial team. Comrades of Sudar Art Troupe and Women Art Troupe, Best Students, Com. V. Chandrasekaran who designed the 60th Conference Special Logo and Comrades V. Mohan and G. Seenivasan were felicitated. The open session of Diamond Jubilee Conference came to an end with vote of thanks proposed by Com N.P. Rameshkannan, General Secretary.



Annual General Meeting of LICEU Gandhinagar

Annual General Meeting of LIC Employees Union Gandhinagar Division was held at Palanpur on 21/08/2016. Around 280 comrades including 25 women comrades from all the Branches of Gandhinagar Division participated in the conference.

Com. M D Brahmbhatt, President hoisted the AIIEA flag at the beginning of the meeting. SDM Gandhinagar and other officials were also present in the meeting.

The meeting started with lighting of lamp by Cpm.H.I.Bhatt, General Secretary, WZIEA, Sr. D.M. Shri Sanojkumar, President Com. M.D.Brahmbhatt, Gen. Secretary Com. Subodh Trivedi and Mahila Conenor Mrs Lalita Khemani.

A homage was paid to departed comrades in the beginning of the meeting.

The AGM was inaugurated by Com.H.I.Bhatt Gen. Secretary WZIEA. In his inaugural speech, Com.H.I.Bhatt discussed in detail the efforts of AIIEA in clinching the charter. He informed the comrades about the

visit of Finance Minister Arun Jetley to yogakshema & his comment on privatization of LIC and what could be the price of LIC if it is listed on the stock exchange. He appealed all the comrades to unite and strengthen our units for a very strong protest against the Neo-liberal policies of the BJP-led Govt.

SDM Gandhinagar addressed the house and gave inspired speech. He said that it is AIIEA who always fought to save LIC. com. Jaimin desai General secretary Surat division, com. Neerav Khankar General Secretary Ahmedabad, com. J V Pansara



veteran leader of Ahmedabad unit also addressed the house. Thereafter Executive Committee's report was presented by General Secretary which was adopted by the house. Com.H.I.Suthar treasurer presented accounts. Both Executive committee

report & Accounts were accepted by the house unanimously.

The conference unanimously elected com. M.D.Brahmbhatt as President and com. S A Trivedi as General Secretary.

Conference of Surat Divisional Insurance Employees' Union



Divisional Conference of SDIEU, Surat was held on 4th September, 2016. The conference was presided over by Com Jaimin H Desai, President SDIEU.

The Conference was inaugurated by General Secretary, WZIEA Com H I Bhatt. Com Harshad Popat, Organising Secretary, WZIEA Gujarat Region and Com.Bhavna Baraiya, Women Convener of Rajkot Division and Com.Dipti Raval Women Representative of Gandhinagar have graced the occasion.

Com.H I Bhatt, Joint Secretary AIIEA, in his inaugural speech deliberated on various issues ranging from Imperialist machinations to the industrial Problems. He appealed to cadres to be vigilant about the future challenges of the Govt's move to privatize LIC and GIC.He appealed all that after meaningful and deserved wage revision we must now strengthen AIIEA in Western Zone. He also stressed the point that cadres of SDIEU must endeavor to implement various calls and programmes of AIIEA. He appreciated Surat unit for successfully implementing each program of AIIEA, WZIEA. He showered praised on Surat comrades for running the People for India Forum as per tradition of AIIEA.

Com.Harshad Popat, Organizing Secretary WZIEA wished the conference a grand success and appeal activists of SDIEU to organize the organization by bringing more and more neutral members into AIIEA's fold. He acknowledged the efforts of activists for a success of 2nd September Strike inspite of vicious and anti struggle propaganda of non-strugglers.Com.

Bhavna Baraiya and Com Dipti Raval wished the Conference a grand success and urged lady comrades of Surat to contribute more to consolidate AIIEA by consolidating SDIEU.

After the inauguration those members who retired during last year and meritorious children of members who excelled in Academic pursuit were felicitated by Com H I Bhatt and veteran leader of SDIEU Com.Kapil Purohit.

SDIEU General Secretary, Com Devang Naik placed before the House the 72 page annual report in which International, National, Industrial and other issues pertaining to working class including effects of Neo-Liberal Economic policies, Jobless Growth, Intolerance of haves towards have-nots, AIIEA's 65 years journey and Golden jubilee of LIC and challenges before working class etc. are elaborately discussed with facts and figures. He requested all activists to see that literature of AIIEA reach each and every member since all types of media is hostile to working class.

Overall 8 comrades from various branches participated in the debate on the report and agreed to see that the comprehensive report is read by all members in their branches. Com.Kapil Purohit congratulated team SDIEU for preparing a detailed report every year which helped the cadres to assimilate themselves into the Ideological mould of AIIEA.

The conference adopted resolutions on certain Industrial issues and National Issues. They include the issues relating to recruitment in LIC, Disinvestment of PSGI companies, improvement in promotion policy, Transfer and mobility policy, Government policy on Pension, one more option of Pension , absorbment of remaining RPTs,inter DO transfers, solution to problems of cashiers, demanding recognition of AIIEA in LIC etc.

The conference elected Com. Jaimin Desai, Com. Devang Naik and Com. Hemant Haveliwala as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Vote of thanks tendered by Com.Jaimin Desai,President of SDIEU ●

Kolkata Div.LIEA celebrates its Diamond Jubilee year

The Kolkata Division Life Insurance Employees' Association (KDLIEA) celebrated its Diamond Jubilee Year (60th) with the kind of importance it deserved. It undertook a host of programmes during the period from 5th August, 2015 to 4th August, 2016 and left no stone unturned to implement them meticulously. Incidentally, KDLIEA took its birth through a convention held from 4th to 5th August, 1956 in Kolkata.

The morning of 5th August, 2015 witnessed Com. Chandrasekhar Bose, the living legend of the insurance employees' movement, addressing a gathering of employees at the Hindusthan Buildings courtyard to mark the beginning of the Diamond Jubilee Year of KDLIEA. In his speech, Com. Bose fondly narrated the history of KDLIEA right from its coming into being to its going from strength to strength with the passage of time. Before his speech, Com. Ramkrishna Datta, President of KDLIEA, hoisted the flag of KDLIEA. Com. Chanchal Bhattacharya, the then General Secretary of KDLIEA, also addressed the gathering in brief.

Against all political odds prevailing in the state, as a part of Diamond Jubilee Celebration, on 5th March, 2016, the Hindusthan Building Annexe base committee—a leading base of KDLIEA—arranged a lecture on the topic; "Indian Democracy and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar". The speaker was Com. Kanti Biswas—an ex-minister of past Left Front government who expired recently. The programme was well-attended and a total success.

On 15th July, 2016, a central programme in the form of a seminar was organised by the KDLIEA at Subarna Banik Samaj Hall, Kolkata. In this seminar, Com. Amanulla Khan, the revered President of AIIEA, was invited to speak on the subject titled; "India Is At A Crossroads- The Tasks Before The Working Class Movement". Com. Khan's erudite speech and his lucid analysis of the challenges confronting the working class today, were highly lauded by all present in the Seminar.

On the 20th July, 2016, the Women Sub-Committee of KDLIEA organised a 'Blood Donation Camp' in



the Conference Hall, Jeevan Prakash Building as a part of KDLIEA's Diamond Jubilee Celebration. The noble effort was well-responded and it consolidated the women employees sense of belonging to the organisation.

The last central programme of KDLIEA was organised on 1st August, 2016 at Academy of Fine Arts Auditorium, Kolkata, to mark the closing ceremony of the Diamond Jubilee Year Celebrations of KDLIEA. The closing ceremony took place in two parts. In the first part, as a token of recognition and inspiration, KDLIEA took up the noble job to felicitate five selected poor but meritorious Secondary and Higher Secondary pass out students with flower bouquet and extend financial help to them for continuation and completion of their studies. The former President and General Secretaries of KDLIEA discharged the above assignment with immense pleasure at the request of KDLIEA. In the second part of the ceremony, a drama named "Ghansiram Kotowal" was staged by a famous theatre group called 'Chetana'. The drama, in crux, dealt with a revolt against feudal torture and injustice and was well appreciated by the audience.

To sum up, the voluntary and enthusiastic participation of the members in all the programmes undertaken in the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the KDLIEA will further strengthen the unity of the organisation .



Silver Jubilee Conference of LICEU Kottayam Division



Marked by social welfare activities, cleaning works, a mega family meet and colourful cultural programmes and attended by a number of retired employees, officers and agents, the Silver Jubilee Conference of LICEU, Kottayam Division engraved itself on the historical walls of the organization.

The conference kicked off on the morning of 2nd October, 2016, the Gandhi Jayanti Day with Com. Baby Joseph, the Divisional President, hoisting the union flag amidst revolutionary slogans. Thereafter, Com. T Senthilkumar, General Secretary, SZIEF inaugurated the photo exhibition covering the 25 years of organizational history.

A group of 25 comrades representing the 25 years presented the welcome song. Inaugurating the open session, AIEA General Secretary Com. V. Ramesh explained in detail how the corporate India had benefited from the 25 years of liberalization process, marginalizing the lives of the poor and oppressed, and warned that the Modi Government was on a selling spree, with the entire public sector as well as the soil, water and air being privatized fully. AIEA Vice President Com. M. Kunhikrishnan, SZIEF Vice President Com. M. Rajeev, SZIEF General Secretary Com. T. Senthilkumar, SZIEF Joint Secretary Com. P. P. Krishnan, SZWWCC Joint Convenors Comrades J. Vijaya & K. R. Vini, KSGIEU General Secretary Com. M. U. Thomas, former AIEA Vice President Com. C Raveendranathan, LIC Class I officer's Association Divisional Joint Secretary Sri. Arun Gopinath, NFIFWI Divisional General Secretary Sri. A. Ajith, LICAIOI Divisional General Secretary Com. P D Rajmohan Nair, Federation of State Employees & Teachers' Organization District Secretary Com. P. N. Krishnan Nair and

Bank-Insurance-BSNL Joint Forum Convenor Com. V. Karthikeyan greeted the session. Senior retired divisional leaders alongwith Com. Baby Joseph were felicitated by Com. V. Ramesh on the occasion. Com. V K Ramesh, Divisional Joint Secretary delivered the welcome speech and Com Gopidas, Divisional Joint Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to the open session chaired by Com. Baby Joseph.

A mega family meet where members, families, retired employees, former members members of fraternal organisations in the industry and other well wishers of the organisation gathered commenced after the general conference. The programme commenced with a theme song performed by the comrades followed by performance of various art forms like film songs, a short play on the relevance of Gandhiji, thiruvathirakali by both men and women, classical dance, mimics, all by comrades and their family members. The programme concluded with a fusion musical concert by a professional troupe.

On 3rd October, 2016, the General Council was inaugurated by former MLA and CITU All India Working Committee Member Com. V. N. Vasavan and addressed by AILIAF Divisional President Sri. V. J. Joseph. Comrades T. Senthilkumar and S. Sivasubramanian (Joint Secretary, SZIEF) intervened in the discussions by 15 comrades on the General Secretary's report as well as statement of accounts, which were later unanimously adopted by the General Council.

General Council also adopted resolutions on price rise, unemployment, communalization, atrocities



on women, anti-worker policies of the central government, pension privatization, public sector insurance protection, service tax on insurance premium, disinvestment of PSGI companies and their unification, pension option, removal of insurance policies from the ambit of GST, terrorism and cross-border extremism, attacks on Dalits, anti-worker labour laws, recruitment in LIC Cl. III & IV cadres, stoppage of FDI in Insurance and Defence sectors and strengthening of the left movement.

Comrades Baby Joseph, V K Ramesh and Santhosh Ninan Zachariah were unanimously elected by the General Council as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the ensuing term.

The conference ended with the vote of thanks by the newly-elected General Secretary Com. V K Ramesh.

The Silver Jubilee Conference was preceded by a series of campaigns like donation of an ambulance to a government hospital, observance of a Cleaning Day and a Business Procurement Day, inter-collegiate quiz competition, painting and essay competitions for school children, short story and poem writing, essay, quiz and mobile phone photography contests for all classes of employees. A seminar involving distinguished personalities is also proposed to be held before the 24th AIIEA conference in January 2017.

Diamond Jubilee Year Conference of IEA Patna Division I



The 60th Annual General conference (Diamond Jubilee Year) of Insurance Employees' Association Patna Division was successfully held between 3rd to 5th September 2016 at Jeevan Prakash, Fraser Road, Patna-1.

The Conference started with the programme of hoisting the flag by the president of the organization, Com. Vijay Kr. Verma. More than 400 members of the organization, including the various Trade Union Leaders of Sisters organization participated in the opening session. After hoisting the flag, all participants paid homage to the martyrs column.

The opening session was inaugurated by Com. Geeta Shant, Convenor of the Womens' Sub Committee, NCZIEF. She also addressed the convention of the womens sub-committee of IEAPD in which all women comrades of the organization including the women comrades of the sister organization participated in the convention. She suggested in her speech that all women should embrace the political understanding and ideology of the AIIEA for their better tomorrow.

The beauty of the opening session was the

speech of the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Dr. (Prof.) Nawal Kishore Choudhary, an eminent Economist of Patna University and Inaugurator, Com. Geeta Shant. Various leaders of other Trade Unions also greeted the conference for its success.

On 4th September, 2016, the Chief Guest, Com. Dharmraj Mahapatra, Jt. Secretary of the CZIEA spoke at length on all issues confronting the working class both in India and global. He was critical of the Modi government for pursuing the neo-liberal policies and attacking the rights and benefits of the workers won through struggles over decades. He said privatization of public sector general insurance industry will harm the national economy and this should be resisted. He cautioned of the attacks that are bound to come on LIC. He asked the delegates and observers to understand the struggles of AIIEA and strengthen this great organization to meet the enormous challenges of the present times.

The Delegate session was also addressed by the Chief speaker, Com Shreekanta Mishra, General Secretary of ECZIEA & President of ECZIEA Com. Shrawan Kumar. Both these leaders exhorted the audience to strengthen the AIIEA which alone can guarantee the protection of the industry and the living and working conditions of insurance employees. Leaders of IEAPD who retired from the services of LIC (about 100) were also remembered during special session held in honour of them.

The Diamond Jubilee conference unanimously elected Com. Vijay Kr. Verma, Com. Om Prakash & Com. Mukesh Prasad as a President, General Secretary & Treasurer respectively for the ensuing term.

Diamond Jubilee Conference successfully concluded with the vote of thanks by com. B.D. Singh Jt. Secretary, IEAPD



Role of LIC in Nation Building : Two Day National Conference at Dharwad

To commemorate the Diamond Jubilee year of LIC and as a part of the programmes to highlight the achievements of LIC during its purposeful existence of 60 years, a Two Day National Conference was organized on 28th & 29th September 2016 by Insurance Employees' Union, Dharwad in collaboration with Karnatak Arts and Commerce College, Dharwad, which is a constituent college of Karnatak University, Dharwad. Dharwad Insurance Institute also extended its cooperation in organizing this conference. The main theme of the National Conference was "Role of LIC in Nation Building".

To involve vast section of academic fraternity in this activity, communications were sent to a number of Universities and Colleges in the country inviting papers on the themes related to achievements of LIC. To ensure larger participation, the Insurance Employees' Union Dharwad had announced that the best two papers would be awarded prizes – first prize will be of Rs.20000/- and second prize of Rs.10000/-. The inaugural function of the Conference was held at Srijana Auditorium in Karnatak College campus, Dharwad at 11 am on 28th September 2016. Prof. V.



CONFERENCE OF ICEU, MYSORE DIVISION

The 27th Annual General Council Meeting of Insurance Corporation Employees' Union, Mysore Division was successfully held on September 11, 2016 at a moffusil centre, Nanjangud. The comrades of Kollegal, Chamarajanagar and Nanjangud base units hosted the Conference in a magnificent way.

A massive rally of over 300 participants including CITU and Anganawadi comrades preceded the Conference. Com.J.Suresh, Jt.Secretary, SCZIEF flagged off the rally, which went through the main roads of Nanjangud drawing public attention, before concluding at the venue of the Conference. Com.N.Vijayakumar, President, ICEU, Mysore Division hoisted the flag of AIIEA amidst thunderous slogans. The Conference began with a revolutionary song.

Support from a People's representative: Mr.R.Dhruvanarayan, Member of Parliament from Chamarajanagar Lok Sabha Constituency was the Chief Guest. He proudly pronounced that he is a policyholder of LIC and profusely appreciated the role of LIC in nation building activities. He also

acknowledged the contribution of LIC employees in this saga. Lauding our Union for its relentless struggle in defense of public sector, he assured his continued support both within and outside the Parliament.

Inaugurating the Conference, Com.K.Venugopal narrated the successful journey of LIC in the last 60 years, which had to cross several hurdles to remain as a market leader even to this day. He cautioned that public sector insurance is under severe attack from the NDA regime and there is no room for complacency. The success of 2nd September strike, despite Central Govt.'s efforts to create divisions, is a pointer to growing resistance of the Indian working class to the neo-liberal policies. The social policies of the BJP Govt., is harming the secular, harmonious fabric of the country and increasing attacks on dalits, attack on food habits, dress, culture is a testimony, he explained and called upon the employees to harness the unity and integrity of the nation. While addressing the delegates' session, Com.K.Venugopal



Sharada of Economics Department, Karnatak Arts & Commerce College welcomed the gathering and Com. Uday Gadagkar, General Secretary, Insurance Employees' Union, introduced the guests. The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Vasudeva Sedam, Chairman, Department of Economics, Gulbarga University. In his inaugural address Prof. Vasudev Sedam was highly appreciative of the role of LIC in creating jobs in large numbers for the youth of this country. LIC is one of the institutions which is helping crores of families in their tough times by providing insurance cover to the breadwinner of the family and is also helping below poverty line people to raise their standard of living, he said. He firmly opined that insurance should be under state sector.

Dr. Ramalinga Kannan, former Principal Adviser to RBI, former Member of IRDA, visiting Professor of Madras School of Economics, who was one of the persons to deliver Keynote address, said that LIC has expanded its horizon and has designed life insurance policies according to the needs of people and has acquired peoples' faith. He explained with facts and figures the contribution of LIC in various public utility services like railways, health, housing, energy, irrigation, drinking water etc. Its role in job creation is noteworthy, he said.

Delivering his Keynote address Com. Amanulla

Khan, President, AIIEA, said that with 30 crore individual policies and more than 12 crore group policies, LIC has covered 1/3 of Indian population and looking to the level of economic development of the country this is a fantastic performance. With over one lakh staff and more than 10 lakh agency force, LIC is one of the institutions which has helped in creating jobs in the country. Giving comparative figures of assets, Life Fund etc. at the time of formation of LIC in 1956 and now, Com. Amanulla Khan said that the performance of LIC in the last 60 years is unmatched and now LIC has emerged as the country's biggest financial institution. Giving figures with regard to contribution of LIC in social sector and infrastructure, Com. Amanulla Khan said that LIC has carved a niche for itself as one of the highest contributor to the nation building activities. This could be possible because it is a Government owned public sector undertaking, he said. He explained about the challenges faced by LIC and said that in the given situation of government vigorously implementing neo-liberal economic policies, the Central government is making all out efforts to privatize LIC, which is not at all in the interest of the nation or the insuring public. He appealed to the gathering to support the campaign being carried out by LIC employees in defence of



explained the nuances of wage revision. He expressed concern over dip in LIC's growth in non-single segment and advised the comrades to redress this issue. He also spoke on pending issues like one more option for pension, CGIT, TMP, Five days week, Biometrics etc.

Com.K.Jayatheertha and Com.J.Suresh, Joint Secretaries of SCZIEF guided the deliberations. They appreciated the initiative of forming Dr.Ambedkar Training Centre for Education and Employment, activities of Mysore Insurance Institute, response of Mysore Divisional Unit to the calls of SCZIEF and AIIEA and called upon the comrades to strengthen the organization further. They advised to hold regular TU classes to enhance the class consciousness of members to face the challenges. They also responded to certain individual issues of employees which are pending at ZO and CO.

17 Comrades, including one woman comrade, participated in the debate on the Report of the Divisional Executive Committee. There was total unanimity on the formulations of the Report. The Report was approved after the summing up by the General Secretary. The Annual Statement of Accounts was also approved unanimously.

The Conference was greeted by Com.H.S.Sunanda, General Secretary, Karnataka State Anganwadi Workers' Association, Com. Govindaswamy, President, Nanjangud Taluk Committee of CITU, Com.D.Suresh, President, ICEU, Bangalore DO-I, Com.S.B.Balaram, Vice President, GIEA (SZ) and Com.C.R.Krishnamurthy, General Secretary, Insurance Corporation Pensioners' Association, Mysore Division.

The Conference unanimously elected a team of 12 Office Bearers and 20 Executive Committee Members for the ensuing term with Coms N.Vijayakumar, SS Nagesh and S Sridhara as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The Conference unanimously nominated Com.S.S.Nagesh as AIIEA Working Committee Member. and unanimously elected 5 delegates to the AIIEA Conference to be held at Ernakulam (Kochi) in January 2017.

The Conference profusely congratulated the comrades of all the three base units which hosted the Conference for their tireless efforts in ensuring its success.



▷from previous page

finance Officer, Karnatak University Dharwad. Com. B.N.Poojary, General Secretary, LIC Retired Employees' Association, Dharwad proposed vote of thanks.

It is heartening to note that more than 120 papers were received by the college. Hence after the inaugural function, on 28th & 29th 4 technical sessions were held and the participants submitted their papers in front of a peer committee consisting of the faculty of Economics Department of Karnatak University, Dharwad.

The Two-Day National Conference came to an end with a valedictory function held at 4 pm on 29th September 2016. The Chief Guest of the valedictory function was Shri Oscar Fernandes, Rajyasabha Member & Former Union Minister. Speaking on the occasion Shri Oscar Fernandes heaped encomiums on the LIC. He said that LIC is "KOHINOOR" of India. More than 30 percent of the people in India are still below the poverty line and LIC was formed to uplift such poor people from poverty, he said. He was very appreciative of the quality of service rendered by LIC and said that by settling claims to the extent of 99.74 percent LIC's performance has been unmatched in the world. Recalling that he was also an employee of LIC, he said that he received a salary of Rs.3/- per day then, and LIC gave him not only a job but a future too. Now because of the contribution by

employees and confidence reposed by the people of the country, LIC has emerged as the largest and finest financial institution in the country. He appealed to LIC to come out with insurance policies with low premiums so that poor people can also afford to take policies and get insured. After that prizes were given to two best papers. First prize of Rs.20000/- was awarded to Sri Sharat Kumar & second prize was awarded to Sri Pradeep T. Both of them are Research Students in Karnatak University, Dharwad.

Prof. P.B.Gai, Vice Chancellor of Karnatak University, who presiding over the valedictory function also spoke appreciating the immense contribution made by LIC to the nation building activities. He said that the service rendered by LIC employees is of very high quality.

Prof. Annapurna of Economics Department, Karnatak Arts and Commerce College rendered vote of thanks.

By all account, the Two Day National Conference was very successful and the purpose with which it was organized was achieved to a considerable extent. The local press gave wide publicity on both days' events.

Utilising the visit of Com. Amanulla Khan, a meeting of employees was organized on 28th September evening. The meeting was well attended and large number of our members, representatives from all our Branch Units and good number of Officers attended the meeting.

Trade Union Classes in Visakhapatnam Division

ICEU Visakhapatnam Division organized trade union classes for the Branch unit leadership on 02.10.2016 at Visakhapatnam. Com M Kameshwari, President, ICEU, dealt on the Subject "History of AIIEA with relevance of past struggles to the present situation". She dealt at length on the struggles carried out by AIIEA since its inception, with reference to the objective situation prevailing in the country during those periods. The working class approach of AIIEA in each of its struggle against the management and Government, coupled with the tactical line of the

AIIEA stalwarts, which led to victory in every struggle, was also dealt. She also explained the relevance of struggles in the present political, economic and social conditions prevailing today and the need to intensify the struggles to protect public sector LIC and for the rights and benefits of the working class. The second class on "Organisation" was dealt by Com N Ramanachalam, General Secretary, ICEU. While dealing the subject, Com Ramanachalam explained the attacks of globalization on the mindset of the employees, and the recent trends of complacency among the employees. He also explained the approach the branch leadership must follow while dealing with the general members. The need for newer members to come into leadership was also explained.

Com KV Ramana Murthy, Vice President, ICEU acted as the principal for the classes. The secretariat members of all branch units, conveners and co conveners of the women sub committee also attended.



Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti at Surat-Seminar on Women Empowerment

On 2nd October, 2016, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, a panel discussion on various issues pertaining to women's empowerment was arranged by Surat Divisional Insurance Employees' Union in collaboration with Surat Mahila Sangh. The Seminar was presided over by Com.Zehraben Cyclewala President of Surat Mahila Sangh. The Panel Discussion was conducted by Advocate Sapna Pathakji, Secretary Surat Mahila Sangh. The panelist were Smt. Bhavnaben Patel ex-Government employee turn social worker, Advocate Mrs. Shahin Saiyyad, Dr.Sushma Ayyar, gynecologist and writer and Dr.Dipika Pathakji, Chairman of NGO.

Smt.Bhavnaben Patel explained the aspects and importance of Economic and Social empowerment of women. She explained that you need not be a feminist to bring about the desired changes in the society regarding issues of women. She advised all participants to be united on the demand of 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies. Advocate Mrs.Shahin Siyyad educated the audience regarding various constitutional provisions and Acts safeguarding the rights and safety of women in India. Dr.Sushma Aiyar stressed the importance of education of science and technology for women to eradicate the superstitions in the society. Herself a gynecologist she shared her experience of apathy of society, particularly of family members towards the health of female family members .She also urged the audience to unitedly fight against casteism, communalism, child marriage and Burkha/Parda system prevailing in various sections of the society. Dr. Dipika Pathakji explained the role of Government



and NGOs in empowerment of women. She urged all NGOs to unite on the issues of women empowerment as the Govt. is transferring its responsibility on NGOs regarding women empowerment and other social welfare schemes for women.

An open session was quite informative. Com. Devang Naik, Gen.Secretary SDIEU informed the audience how AIIEA has empowered women comrades in LIC and as a result of constant pursuits one woman has reached the post of Joint Secretary of AIIEA and in many divisions women comrades are now shouldering the responsibility of trade union activities either as General Secretary or President. He also urged all participants to disown books which propagate the inferior status to women.

Question and answer round was successfully conducted by the panelist and at the end of it a resolution demanding 33 % reservation for women in Legislative Assemblies and Indian Parliament.

Com. Devang Naik, General Secretary of SDIEU presented vote of thanks.

21st Conference of Jalpaiguri Divisional LIC Pensioners' Association

The 21st Annual General Conference of Jalpaiguri Divisional LIC Pensioners' Association was held on 18.09.2016 at Jalpaiguri. 63 delegates, including 7 women were present in the meeting. In the absence of the President, Com. Anil Kumar Niyogi, who is seriously ill, a presidium consisting of Com. Debabrata Banerjee and com. Samar Ch. De conducted the proceedings of the meeting.

At the very outset warm felicitation was given to Com. Debabrata Banerjee on completing 80 years of age this year.

Apart from the delegates four representatives of fraternal Pensioners' Association, like State Govt. Pensioners' Association, General Insurance Pensioners' Association and retired Primary School teachers' Association were present. They greeted the

conference wishing its success. Six delegates took part in the deliberations on the report. All speakers criticized the neo-liberal economic policy of the Central Govt. and laid emphasis on the need to strengthen the organization and to participate in the programme of movement launched by the employees of LIC against the policy of disinvestment and privatization. The report and the statement of A/c of for the year 2015 were adopted unanimously. Nineteen resolutions on various issues were adopted unanimously. From the conference a 27 member Executive committee has been formed. Com. Debabrata Banerjee, Com. Sukhendu N. Biswas and Com. Nirranjan Chakraborty have been elected as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the next term.

INSURANCE NEWS IN BRIEF

- * The global reinsurers were not happy with the present regulatory norms in when they have been asked to do every core activity within the country itself. Hence in the name of creating conducive investment climate Government is now all set to ease regulatory norms, including licence rules.
- * As many as six insurers, including ICICI Lombard, New India, HDFC Ergo, Bajaj Allianz General, are now offering multiyear policies. They work out to be cheaper than the annual renewal plans. These policies are exempted from the annual premium hike which hovers between 10% to 15% every year. Further insurers also give discounts on own-damage insurance ranging from 2% to 6% discounts ranging from 2% 6%. Multi-year policies to some extent ensure that most of the two-wheelers will continue to be under insurance cover.
- * Life insurance business for the month of September 2016 saw rise of 61 percent in the new business premium registering Rs.16,767.14 crore on year to year basis. LIC collecting Rs. 11,117.48 crores tops the list. Rest 23 companies could garner Rs.6,724.88 crores. LIC's market share on premium basis is 72.36 percent which was 69.58 percent last September.
- * In Gujarat the non-life insurance premium is higher than other parts of the country. For the simple reason, as being cited by many insurers, is the fraudulent claims. Average number of claims from Gujarat are twice more than other states or the national average. The claim ration for Gujarat is 130-140% while for the rest of the country it is 60-70%. The claim ratio in health insurance is worst in Gujarat. The frauds are more prevalent in Hospital cash, Indemnity and Personal Accident products.
- * Not only the private insurers lacked interest in selling Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana as they found that the premium was not lucrative, but also for the claim experience by those who had to give the cover was not good. It is reported that most of the claims arose within 45 days from the date of cover. Now, this year Government has changed a provision according to which an insurer can reject a claim which arises within 45 days from its commencement.
- * Nearly 530,000 Australians, it is estimated, are going to drop the idea of buying health insurance due to steep hike in the premium. The Party which is ruling is consoling by saying that the rate of increase is far lower than what the previous government had done. What matters to the people is how much they have got to shell down now.
- * Is the AIG on the selling spree, or is it coming out of the countries where it feels that its returns are not so welcoming. AIG (American International Group Inc.), one of the major insurance companies in World, has stopped offering home, personal accident and group life coverage, auto portfolio in Brazil, where it has been in business for the last 70 years. It has already sold its units in Central America and Taiwan.
- * As the crisis loom large across the globe, every company wants to play safe and in the name of protecting the investors' interests is going around selling such business that is not too rewarding. Deutsche Bank AG sells its British insurance business, Abbey Life to British's largest owner of life insurance funds, Phoenix Group Holdings for 635 million pounds. The German Bank is doing this also to clean its balance sheet.
- * Perils of low interest rate are shoring up in England. It has affected insurance business in various ways. Unhealthy competition has become rampant. To the extent that Bank of England says "The London insurance market should not keep cutting prices to secure business because low interest rates mean investment earnings can no longer cushion poor underwriting".! The Prudential Regulator Authority has warned against insurers using money set aside for insurance claims in previous year to boost profitability.
- * Atena, a US based 160 year old healthcare benefit company has entered India through its fully owned Indian company, Indian Health Organisation. It initially wants to deal with outpatient expenses –which is a bigger market that the in-patient. This market is so rewarding that the Atena says that it breakeven within three years from now !
- * United Kingdom's market regulator, Financial Conduct Authority, for the second time in two years fines Aviva Plc for mishandling customers' money properly and for having failed to properly oversee third parties used for administrative tasks involving client money. In 2015 it was fined 17.6 million pounds and now 8.2 million pounds.

A.M.KHAN, DHARWAD

ECONOMIC TID BITS

- India's Foreign Exchange Reserve is at \$367.64 billion. India's trade deficit with China is up at \$ 52.68 billion from \$ 48.48 billion in 2014-15. India's trade with China declined from more than \$ 72 billion in 2014-15 to \$ 70 billion in 2015-16. India's WPI inflation is at 3.6% and food inflation is at 5.75 % in September from 8.23% in August.
- China's GDP grew at 6.7% during the third quarter of current fiscal. Governments' spending in China on social sectors rose by 11.3% in September from 10.3% in August, while the revenue rose by 4.9%. Governments' spending in the first nine months rose by 12.5% and the deficit in the first nine months was 1.46 trillion Yuan (\$ 216.8 billion) up from 625.1 billion Yuan last year.
- According to a study, in India major share of the public money spent in state level health care system is not spent on medical services but goes to wages and salaries of human resources. Wages and salaries account for 86% of the total public expenditure in Punjab, 72% in Maharashtra, 65% in Kerala, 52.5% in Madhya Pradesh and 35% in Odisha. However, the per capita 'total cost of care' – which includes money spent by patients as well as that of government including subsidy is mostly cheaper in public sector than in the private sector.
- The IMF has revised its estimate for economic growth of major economies of the world in its latest World Economic Outlook Report. The major economies are expected to grow by 1.6% this year compared to 2.1% in 2015, down from earlier forecast of 1.8%. US economy is expected to grow by 1.6%, down from 2.2%. Euro Zone would expand by 1.7% this year and by 1.5% next year. Japan's economy would grow by 0.5% this year and 0.6% in 2017. UK's economy would grow by 1.8% this year and 1.1% in 2017. Chinese economy would grow by 6.6% this year and by 6.2% in 2017. Emerging economies are expected to grow by 4.2% up from earlier forecast of 4.1% and by 4.6% in 2017.
- According to Australia Institute report, the profit of the banks constitutes 2.9% of the GDP of the country. It is estimated that combined annual pretax profits are at more than \$ 46 billion. However, majority of the profits are from mortgage and credit card lending to heavily debt-laden households. In August 2016, 4 banks held 83% of home loan market, 53% of insurance premiums and 57.3% of retail investment funds. Australia's household debt ratio – debt to income – of more than 180% is highest in the developed world.
- The WTO forecasts that global trade would grow by only 1.7% this year, down from the earlier prediction of 2.8%. By 2015, inflation rates were below medium-term expectations in more than 85% of a broad sample of 120 economies, 20% of which were actually experiencing deflation. Since 1980s, world trade has grown at a rate 1.5 to 2 times faster than the growth in global GDP. This year, for the first time the trade growth has dipped to 80% of GDP, first time the growth has dipped below the GDP growth since 2001 and only second time since 1982.
- According to a study, nearly 5% of population in Australia (more than 1 million people) lives in poor housing. The health of those resides in these households are rated as fair or poor. In Australia, only 42% of public housing is in good condition and 20% of public housing is in very poor and derelict conditions. In Australia, over the past three decades, the cost of private housing has soared sharply by 263%. The Australian workers spend more than 30% of their income for housing costs.
- Wal-Mart has announced its decision to cut 7000 back office jobs in USA. Wal-Mart is the largest retailer and number-one employer in 20 states and employs about 1% of US work force.
- According to a labour bureau report, in India the overall unemployment rate amongst people aged 15 and above is at 2.6%. For Post graduates, it was 8.9%, for graduates 8.7% and for diploma or certificate holders 7.4%. Unemployment amongst skilled engineers (other than computer) – 25%, civil engineers – 11%, textile engineers – 17%, hotel management – 14%, beauticians – 19%, fitter – 13% and machinist – 14%.

J.SURESH, MYSORE

WORKING CLASS STRUGGLES

South Korean truck owner-drivers on strike :

Over 15,000 members of Cargo Truckers Solidarity, affiliated with the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, walked off the job on October 10 to protest against the government's plan to allow more small freight trucks to operate. They fear that additional competition would lead to a cut in freight rates and job losses. Truckers said they would continue the strike until the government scraps the "cargo transport market development plan" and improves the law and institutions.

Indonesia: Freeport mine workers end strike

: The 1,200 striking workers at PT Freeport Indonesia's (PFTI) Grasberg open pit gold and copper mine in Tembagapura, Papua returned to work on 10th of October after reaching an agreement with management. The workers walked off the job on September 28, demanding equal bonus distribution for workers in all departments. Strikers included heavy equipment operators and truck drivers, halting production at the pit. Grasberg has been plagued by strikes, accidents and production problems in recent years. A three-month strike by 10,000 workers in 2011 that crippled production at the mine only ended after Freeport agreed to pay rises up to 24 percent. A wildcat strike in March 2015 over promotions closed the mine for six days

Brazilian petroleum workers strike over contract :

Members of the Petroleum Workers Syndicate of Rio de Janeiro (Sindipetro-RJ) began an open-ended strike September 29 over outstanding issues in the 2015-2017 contract with Petrobras, Brazil's debt-and scandal-ridden semipublic oil corporation. Sindipetro called the strike to pressure Petrobras to readjust the basic wage scale to conform to the schedule that went into effect in August, an adjustment that would increase pay by 10 percent. The union also denounced the firm's proposal to reduce overtime payments by 50 percent and its stated plans to sell off shares of up to 19.5 billion dollars.

Striking Peruvian teachers teargassed by police, two injured :

The Cusco branch of Peru's Sutep teachers union called a 72-hour strike beginning September 27 to press their demands for a pay raise, free quality education for children, completion of commitments promised by the present government and the removal of Education Minister Jaime Saavedra. On the second day of the strike, police launched tear gas canisters at teachers as they marched to the Alejandro Velasco

Ateste Airport in Cusco.

Strike and protest march by Chilean public employees for wage increase :

On September 29, Chilean public employees struck in repudiation of the government's salary raise offer. Negotiators for the National Fiscal Employees Association (ANEF), representing fifteen public employee unions, met with government officials and demanded a 7.9 percent raise. The government offered 2.9 percent, which is below the projected 2016 inflation rate of 3.4 percent. In Santiago, thousands of workers marched down the capital's main streets to demand the raise. Other demands included labor stability and enhancement of social security. Strikes and protest actions also took place in other regions.

Buenos Aires doctors reject salary offer, call for new strike :

The Buenos Aires Health Professionals Syndical Association (Cicop) met with provincial government negotiators on September 30. Cicop rejected as insufficient the government's eventual salary offer, which would put the monthly pay of a public hospital worker without seniority at 16,080 pesos, or US\$1,048. Cicop called a two-day strike for October 5-6 at the 80 public hospitals and municipal health centers in Buenos Aires.

California social workers on three-day strike over wages, benefits and staffing :

Over 1,000 social workers in Contra Costa County, California went on a three-day strike September 30 to bring attention to stalled contract talks and understaffing. Workers are demanding a 17 percent wage increase and want the county to absorb a greater share of their health care costs.

Pakistan: FATA government teachers protest :

Government teachers in the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA) in northwestern Pakistan demonstrated in front of the Peshawar Press Club on 27th September to demand unpaid wages. The protest was also a part of an ongoing campaign for service upgrades and risk allowance. FATA teachers protested in Islamabad and other parts of the country in December 2015 over these issues. Demonstrators said that while teachers in settled areas in Pakistan were upgraded four years ago, FATA teachers had been ignored. A representative from the All Teachers Associations-Fata Mohmand Agency said FATA teachers were not provided with the facilities and incentives other teachers received.

S.SRIDHARA, MYSORE

For our Field Force

Govt. seeks exception

The Finance Ministry is seeking an exemption from IRDAI to allow LIC to hold more than 15% in a credit guarantee fund. The credit enhancement fund is being set up to help raise the credit rating of bonds floated by infrastructure companies and to make it easier for investors to invest in such bonds. The proposal was part of the Union Budget announced earlier this year, where the government said that LIC will set up a dedicated fund to provide credit enhancement to infrastructure projects. IRDAI, however, had raised concerns as it saw a conflict of interest in LIC providing credit enhancement to bonds that it may itself invest in. If LIC is granted an exemption by IRDAI, LIC is likely to hold 49% stake in the fund.

Penalty for SBI Life

IRDAI has imposed a penalty of Rs.10 Lakhs on SBI Life for procuring business through unlicensed and licence expired corporate agents.

Claims Of Uri Martyrs

In a show of solidarity towards soldiers killed in the Uri attack, LIC has expeditiously settled the insurance claims on its own after obtaining necessary documents. LIC officials scanned the names in the policy masters and traced the families of those martyrs. Officials were deputed to convey heartfelt condolences. They also collected necessary papers for documentation and after ascertaining the nominees, the claims were promptly settled without delay. The insurance claims were settled in less than a week of the attack on September 18, in which 18 soldiers were killed. All the claims were settled by September 24.

Rs.270 Cr to UCO Bank

LIC is offering Rs.270 crore to UCO Bank by purchasing 7.17 crore shares on a preferential basis. With the preferential share allotment, LIC's stake in the bank will increase by 5.5%. Currently LIC is holding 12% in UCO Bank.

Motor insurance

The Vahan and Sarathi are two software programmes for vehicle registration and for driving licences with standardised format implemented by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Digitisation and linking of national data base of registered vehicles with accident data and insurance would ensure prompt payment of compensation to road accident victims. According to data with the Union ministry of road transport and highways, two-wheelers account for a large number of fatal road accidents - 60-70% of the vehicles involved in these

accidents are uninsured. After linking, driving vehicles without insurance will become impossible.

Insurance bankruptcy

The government has put out a draft law proposing a mechanism to deal with bankruptcy in banks, insurance companies and financial sector entities, which when passed will complete the legal framework for dealing with failed business. The Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2016 has been put out for feedback. "Recent experience and research have shown that resolution of financial institutions requires a special regime that is faster than any traditional insolvency procedure, where rights of the creditors and other stakeholders can be overridden in the interest of the financial system (including the consumers) and the economy," said the committee set up by Government, to work out the code, which is under an additional secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs.

Multi-year policies

Multi-year policies seem to be the new norm for two-wheeler motor insurance. Six insurers, including New India, now offer multi-year policies that are cheaper than annual-renewal plans. Insurers give discounts ranging from 2%-6% on own-damage insurance for such plans. Apart from the convenience, another added advantage is that multi-year motor policies will be exempt from IRDAI's annual premium hikes, which on average could be between 10% and 15%.

Shareholders lose

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has raised Rs.6,057-crore by selling 12.65% shares through IPO, as the first insurer to list. It's shares offered an immediate loss of 11% and fell to Rs.297 per share against the issue price of Rs.334. Even after a fortnight, it's shares are below the issue price and keeping loss to those who invested in the company. Shares of ICICI Bank also fell 4.97% after this.

Insurance thro' Paytm

India's largest digital payments company, Paytm has launched a program to offer health insurance to auto and cab drivers – 300,000 of them – who use Paytm to accept fares. To start with, Paytm will provide Rs.50,000 of health cover to the drivers, without the need to furnish documents or go for a health check-up. In the months to come the policies will be extended to the drivers' family members.

ARIVUKKADAL, THANJAVUR

Seminar at Hyderabad on 60 Years of LIC

Continued from Page 15

quoted some interesting facts of LIC – Its total policyholder base is bigger than the population of any country other than China & India – Its assets at US\$330 billion are larger than GDP of any of 82% of the countries – Its revenue can figure in the Fortune 500 companies – LIC could be one of the top six life insurance companies in the world. LIC has been famously acknowledged as 'The Jewel in the Crown'.

Com Amanulla Khan was of the opinion that the biggest challenge ahead for LIC was to sustain the growth in the background of a faltering economy, falling interest rates and utter disdain for public sector.

Sri Prasad Das Gupta, the other Theme Speaker, in his address,

stressed the need for conventional policies and e-marketing. He spoke about the ULIP-experience that LIC had and its effects on LIC's performance in the later years.

A Question-and-Answer Session followed and both the Speakers took questions from the audience which consisted of a cross-section of industry – Members of Hyderabad Insurance Institute, senior management and employees from LIC, delegates from public sector general insurance companies, banking sector and RBI, fraternal trade union bodies and a few students as well. About 225 people attended the Seminar which lasted for about two hours.

RESPONSE



Congratulations for highlighting educational issues in the current issue of the magazine. I hope these articles will help to defeat the communalisation and privatisation of education by the Modi Government

S.S.Rajagopalan, Chennai

This refers to the editorial 'grim unemployment situation'. It was indeed disheartening to know that hundreds of post graduates have applied for sweeper posts. The utter insensitivity shown is most despicable. Any government worth its salt, should have paid attention to worsening unemployment condition. May be it is too much to expect from a party that is wedded to neo liberalism. Employment is essential to combat poverty, malnutrition, endemic debt and destitution.

K.Narayana Rao Bangalore

DONATIONS

Insurance Worker gratefully acknowledges donations from following comrades and units and heartily thanks them for their love and affection towards their journal

Com.ParsaSingh , Malerkotla Branch CHANDIGARH DO	Rs.	1100
Insurance Corporation Employees' Union Madurai Division	Rs.	30000
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Month	Base 2001	Base 1960
January	269	6140.17
February	267	6094.52
March	268	6117.34
April	271	6185.81
May	275	6277.12
June	277	6322.77
July	280	6391.25
August	278	6345.60

Base 1960=Base 2001x22.8259

Com C.K.Manisankar, District Secretary CITU Com A.L.Jacob , former District President, CITU and Com A.V. Kuriakose Circle President , BSNLEU also spoke on the occasion. Com P.R.Sasi, President GIEA (South Zone), leaders of SZIEF and leaders of fraternal trade unions were also present. The meeting was attended by more than 450 Comrades.

The panel of members for the various committees was proposed by Com R.Preethy, President, LICEU, Ernakulam Division and was accepted unanimously. The Reception Committee of 24th General conference of AIIEA was formed with Com P.Rajeev, Former M.P as Chairman and Com P.B.Baburaj , General Secretary LICEU, Ernakulam Division as General Convener. It is to be remembered here that when the Government was trying to raise the FDI in insurance sector from 26% to 49%, Com.P.Rajeev, the then Rajya Sabha MP vehemently opposed it. He placed his arguments with figures and statistics. He was a very good parliamentarian and was appreciated by all the Parliamentarians irrespective of party affiliations at the end of his tenure.

The logo of the conference which was designed by Com.P.R.Sriraj, President, Ranni Branch Unit of Kottayam Division was released by Com K.Chandran Pillai, Former M.P and State Secretary, CITU, Kerala . In his special address he commended that AIIEA is in the forefront of united struggles against liberalization, privatization and Globalization. While congratulating the organization for taking up the struggle for such a long period with out any let up, he exhorted the workers to wage more campaigns and struggles against the neo liberal policies in the days to come.

Com. M.U.Thomas, General Secretary, Kerala State General Insurance Employees Union proposed vote of thanks.

Com. M.Girija, Joint Secretary, AIIEA greeted the gathering and expressed the confidence that all fraternal trade unions would also contribute to the success of the conference.





The Comptroller's Office Co-operative Bank Ltd.,

(A Bank of LIC Employees)

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*Celebrating
Centenary*

ON 13.11.2016

PERFORMANCE AS ON 31.03.2016

MEMBERSHIP	DEPOSITS	ADVANCES	RESERVES	PROFIT AFTER TAX	DIVIDEND PAID	LOAN TO MEMBERS	DEATH RELIEF
3757	OVER 150 CRORES	OVER 100 CRORES	OVER 14 CRORES	1.9 CRORES	24.00%	UPTO 41 LAKHS	1.25 LAKHS

Committed to Co-operative ideals and expressing
social concern by helping over 3000 rural school
children in 32 remote villages.

P.T.SATYANARAYANA
PRESIDENT

S.R.DWARAKANATH
VICE PRESIDENT

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