

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
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(E-mail: aiieahyd@gmail.com)

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11th May, 2021

To,
All the Zonal/Divisional/State/Regional Units

Dear Comrades,

We have addressed a letter today to the Chairman, LIC expressing our concerns on the huge surge in the Covid19 pandemic and related problems. The letter is self-explanatory. This may be brought to the notice of all our members.

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary

The Chairman
L.I.C. of India
Central Office
MUMBAI

Date: 11.05.2021

Dear Sir,

Re: Issues related to the Second Wave of the Covid19 Pandemic

The second wave of the Covid19 pandemic has acquired calamitous proportions. The WHO has classified this variant of the virus as a 'variant of concern' at the global level. There is a huge surge all over India. Offices of the LIC have also been impacted severely. More than a hundred serving employees and officers have already succumbed to the deadly virus across the country. It is unfortunate that significant number of our retired employees have also been claimed by this dreaded virus. A number of employees have lost their spouses and other dear and near ones. An uncanny sense of fear, foreboding and apprehension pervades everywhere. The situation is grim as the health infrastructure has totally collapsed. The people are helplessly scampering for hospital beds and medical oxygen. The LIC employees are no exception. Significant numbers of LIC employees are lost to covid for want of hospital beds, oxygen and timely medical intervention. News of death owing to scarcity of hospital beds keeps coming with nauseating regularity.

The situation demands some intervention by LIC to ameliorate the sufferings of the employees. We appreciate that you have taken some measures for security and safety of employees. However, it has become necessary that offices must be advised to take strict security measures. The LIC must also make some efforts to ensure timely medical attention to the infected employees. Many companies in the corporate sector have tied up with some hotels and hospitals for treatment of their Covid affected employees. Some of them have also set up online help and care centres. We understand that similar arrangements have also been made by some leading public sector financial institutions. As a model employer committed to the welfare of its workforce, LIC should also seriously consider having an understanding with some hospitals/hotels for providing quarantine centres and treatment to the Covid affected employees. The LIC may also consider using the excess space available with it in many places to set up care centres.

The Department of Financial Services has recognized LIC employees as frontline workers. The DFS has expressed desire to ensure faster vaccination of LIC employees. Unfortunately, there is severe shortage of vaccines and this is preventing faster vaccination. The situation has become more difficult with Centre, States and Corporate sector competing to secure vaccine from the manufacturers directly. Many Corporate houses have entered into collaboration with reputed hospitals for vaccination of their staff. We understand that the government has allowed the expenses incurred to be treated as part of Corporate Social Responsibility. We strongly feel that LIC can also enter into such arrangement for vaccinating its staff. This is necessary as the situation is bound to become worst with the warning of third wave of the pandemic.

Another area that merits urgent attention is the issue of Quarantine Leave. There are instances at many centres when employees on suggested quarantine by the office are being asked to submit applications for Privilege Leave/sick leave. This is absolutely unfair, in view of clear cut provisions in the Staff Regulations. We would therefore request that Central Office should issue clear instructions in this regard to sanction Quarantine Leave to employees on suggested quarantine by the office.

Given the distressing situation all around, we request that LIC should take proactive steps in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of its workforce. This is needed to give the necessary confidence to the employees and their family members so that they can discharge their duties in the office efficiently and without any fear.

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully
Sd/-
General Secretary