

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
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To,
All the Zonal/Divisional/State/Regional Units

Dear Comrades,

Re: AIIEA delegation meets the Secretary, DFS

A delegation of AIIEA led by Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary met Shree Debashish Panda, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS) of the Ministry of Finance at Delhi on 27th July, 2021. The delegation also consisted of Coms. KVVS.N.Raju, Vice President, Sanjay Jha, Jt. Secretary, AIIEA, G. Anand, General Secretary, GIEA, South Zone and Reena Mishra, General Secretary, NZGIEU. Along with the Secretary DFS, Sri Amit Agrawal, Additional Secretary and Sri Saurabh Mishra, Jt. Secretary were also present. This meeting was arranged with the help of Com. P. R. Natarajan, the CPI (M) MP from Coimbatore. He was kind enough to be present throughout the meeting which lasted for over 40 minutes despite his busy schedule.

WAGE REVISION IN GENERAL INSURANCE

Initiating the discussion, Com. Shreekant Mishra thanked the DFS for satisfactory conclusion of wage revision in LIC and pointed out that historically the **Wage Revision in PSGI Companies** follow that of LIC in terms of quantum as well as pay structure and employees were expecting the same this time also. However, a meaningful discussion on wage revision that fell due on 1.8.2017 is yet to begin. The GIPSA had held an exploratory talk on 04 April 2019 on this issue and had promised to call the unions for talks early with concrete proposals. Unfortunately, even after passing of considerable period since then, no talks are held to finalize the wage revision. This has created unease and disquiet among the employees of the nationalised General Insurance Companies. He sought the positive intervention of the Secretary DFS on the issue so that the wage revision of PSGI employees could be settled at the earliest and employees would be in a position to give their undivided attention to the challenges confronting the public sector general insurance companies.

Responding to the issues raised by our delegation, the Secretary, DFS stated that he appreciated the views and concerns expressed by AIIEA and the DFS was quite alive to the same. However, due to certain financial difficulties being faced by PSGI companies the DFS was treading cautiously in matters where substantial financial involvement was there. At the same time, he expressed satisfaction that despite the financial year having been an extremely harsh one for the economy due to the pandemic, the PSGI companies were showing signs of a turnaround. He informed that his department was closely monitoring the performance of the PSGI Companies and was in regular touch with the GIPSA in examining the wage issue of PSGI employees. He sought the co-operation of AIIEA in bringing about substantial improvements in the financial strength of the PSGI companies. He also suggested the delegation to engage with the Managements of the Companies on this issue.

The AIIEA delegation explained that the financial challenges being faced by the companies had nothing to do with the performance of the workforce of the PSGICs who have performed remarkably well as far

as underwriting and settlement of claims were concerned. The delegation pointed out that it was because of the commitment of the employees that the PSGI Companies were still holding the dominant position in the market despite the presence of so many private general insurers and standalone health insurers. The employees have patiently waited for a long time hoping that their improved productivity and commitment would be recognized and their demand for a good wage revision would be accepted early. The delegation requested the Secretary DFS to take necessary steps for conclusion of wage revision in PS General Insurance industry early.

IMPROVEMENTS IN PENSION SCHEME

The AIIEA delegation also drew the attention of the Secretary DFS to the issue of **improvements in Pension of LIC employees** as recommended by LIC Board almost two years ago. These improvements, the delegation reminded, relate to increasing the Family Pension to 30 per cent without ceiling and determining the basic pension on the basis of the last pay drawn or the last ten months average whichever is beneficial to the employee.

The Secretary, DFS and Additional Secretary informed the delegation that the recommendations sent by LIC are under their active consideration. The delegation requested for an early decision since the LIC Board recommendations are pending for a fairly long time.

MEETING WITH GIPSA OFFICIALS

Prior to the above meeting with DFS officials, in the forenoon session, the same delegation of **AIIEA met the GIPSA**, represented by Smt. Madhumita Jena, Sr. Vice President and Sri Harish Adlakha, Vice President. Our delegation expressed its unhappiness over the inordinate delay in the Wage Negotiations and demanded that the same be concluded early to the satisfaction of the employees. The GIPSA officials informed that all data relating to the wage revision of employees had already been provided to the DFS. They informed that the Governing Board of GIPSA was not fully represented as the CMDs of two companies were yet to be appointed. They informed that they have requested DFS for speeding up the process.

Comrades, the meetings with the Secretary DFS and GIPSA officials went on in a congenial way. But we must understand that we have to realise our demands in a politically and economically hostile environment. Neoliberalism not only attacks the public sector, it also attacks the wages and other service conditions of the employees. This is true as much of the public sector insurance industry as any other public institution in India today. We must therefore remain prepared for a struggle both on the question of wage revision of PSGI employees as also on the issue of protection of public sector insurance industry. AIIEA shall continue efforts to forge unity and develop struggles to realise our demands.

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary