

**ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION**  
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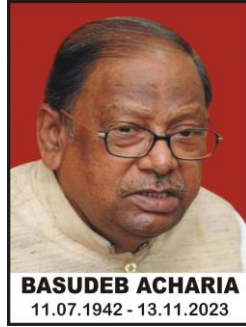
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To

All the Zonal /Divisional /State /Regional Units

**Veteran Trade Union Leader and Parliamentarian Com. Basudev Acharia is no more**



Veteran trade union leader and parliamentarian Com. Basudev Acharia breathed his last yesterday afternoon at Hyderabad after a period of prolonged illness. He was 81. He is survived by two daughters and one son. In his demise, the working class movement lost one of its staunchest allies; the country lost one of the exemplar parliamentarians who always held peoples' issues dear to his heart. His demise creates a void which is difficult to be filled up. The AIIEA expresses its profound grief at the untimely demise of Com. Basudev Acharia.

Born on July 11, 1942 in Purulia in the state of West Bengal, Com. Acharia joined active politics right from his student days. After a brief stint as a school teacher, he worked as a full time worker of the CPI (M). He was elected to the Lok Sabha nine times in 1980, 1984, 1989, 1991, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2004 and 2009. Despite repeated electoral successes and a long parliamentary career, he was untouched by the trappings of power. His simple, amiable and gentle demeanour endeared him to a wide section of the people. His entire parliamentary career was devoted to championing the cause of the working people inside Parliament. As Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways, he played a stellar role in protecting and strengthening Indian railways from the diabolical designs of neoliberalism.

Quite early in his political life, Com. Basudev Acharia joined the working class movement. He was deeply associated with the coal and railway workers' movement. He played a significant role in getting a large number of temporary/contract workers regularised as permanent employees in the railways. He has led many a militant struggle in the coal workers' movement. He took a lot of initiative for organising agents of LIC and till very recently, he was the President of the LIC Agents' Organisation of India. For decades, he was the national Vice President of the CITU and a permanent invitee to the national Secretariat of the CITU for the last six years.

Com. Basudev Acharia had a very close association with AIIEA. He took keen interest in taking up issues of insurance employees with the government as well as placing our points of view in Parliament. He was so thorough and conversant on issues of insurance employees that people unaware of his political credentials often mistook him for a leader of insurance employees' movement. His commitment for public sector institutions at large and LIC in particular was something exemplary. It would be instructive to mention two of his important interventions. The then Minister of State for Finance in the Vajpayee government, Sri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul, made some unsavoury comments against the financial health of LIC by comparing it to the erstwhile UTI. This naturally created a lot of confusion and anxiety amongst the policy holders and prospective clients. At the request of AIIEA, Com. Basudev Acharia who was then Chairman of the Petitions Committee (Lok Sabha) fixed up a meeting with then Union Finance Minister Late Jaswant Singh and led a delegation consisting of Comrades R.P. Manchanda, Com. K. Venugopal and Com. J. Gurumurthy. The Union Finance Minister not only appreciated the concerns of AIIEA, but he was candid enough to admit that he did not agree with the understanding of his Minister of State so far as LIC's financial health was concerned. The second issue pertains to the unfair treatment accorded to profits earned by co-operative banks. When the Government of India decided to tax the profits of co-operative banks, our Co-Operative Bank in Bangalore (named Comptrollers' Office Co-Operative Bank) started a signature campaign against this proposal of the Government and all co-operative banks were made a part of this mobilisation. Com. Basudev Acharia fixed up a meeting with then Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh and led our delegation to the Prime Minister. There are examples galore where Com. Acharia's intervention has ensured flow of benefits to insurance employees.


With his passing away, the working class has lost one of its valiant leaders; the AIIEA lost one of its dependable allies. A delegation of AIIEA consisting of Comrades K. Venugopal, Shreekant Mishra and T.V.N.S. Ravindranath paid last respects to Com. Acharia late yesterday evening at Hyderabad. His body is being flown today to Kolkata.

The AIIEA conveys its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members, particularly his two daughters and son, and dips its banner in deepest respect to Com. Basudev Acharia.

Long Live Com. Basudev Acharia.....

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours

  
General Secretary