

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

LIC BUILDING SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD 500063

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To all the Zonal/Divisional/State/Regional units:

Dear Comrades,

MARCH ON TO THE 23RD CONFERENCE OF AIIEA AT NAGPUR

We extend our hearty greetings to all the insurance employees and the workers across the country for a successful new year 2014.

In a few days time the 23rd Conference of the AIIEA will be held in the historic City of Nagpur from 20th to 24th January 2014. Com. Sitaram Yechury, Member of Parliament, has consented to inaugurate the Conference on 20th January 2014.

The period between the last conference and this conference witnessed a hectic campaign and struggle to save the public sector insurance industry and to counter the neo-liberal policies which are affecting the life and living of the people.

Insurance employees under the leadership of AIIEA massively participated in the 48 hour strike on the 20th and 21st February 2013 along with the other workers in the country. This massive united action reflected the united voice of the workers against the anti-people policies of the government and seeking a reversal of these policies.

Our campaign against further opening up of insurance sector could so far stall the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008. The Government tried to withdraw the sovereign guarantee through the provisions of LIC (Amendment) Bill. But, our campaign succeeded in retaining the sovereign guarantee available to the LIC policies.

Our demand for absorption of temporary employees could finally be clinched and around 5000 Class IV employees were absorbed as permanent employees. In General Insurance sector 2600 Assistants were recruited across the country. Mediclaim improvements were secured in the PS General Insurance Companies and after some delay these improvements have been notified by the companies. Our demand for up-gradation of RPT employees in LIC was settled and the RPT sweepers could be appointed as full-time employees from 1.1.2014.

Wage revision which is due from 1-8-2012 and the demand for one more option to join the Pension Scheme 1995, are the two key demands which are to be clinched. Recruitment in the Class III and IV cadres is also an issue which needs to be resolved without further delay. Neo-liberal policies have been attacking the workers' rights and benefits across the world. It cannot be a different scenario in India where similar policies are being pursued.

Wage revision, one more option for pension and Recruitment and other issues like improvements in mediclaim, improvements in pension scheme are issues which are to be seen in this background. Given the policies of the government, these can be realized only through a sustained and united struggle.

Similarly, health of the industry is also very much an important factor to clinch the economic demands. Hence, the struggle for the economic demands and the struggle to protect the industry have to be taken up simultaneously.

Unprecedented rise in prices has created a serious situation of deprivation among the poor. Government policies of withdrawing its intervention in the areas of employment, health care, education and other basic issues are at the heart of the neo-liberal policies. And if these policies are to be countered there is every need to amalgamate our struggles with the struggles of the general masses.

In the AIIEA, we know that both the major political formations - Congress and the BJP - approve and follow the same neo-liberal policies. The campaign on the alternate policies assumes urgent importance in the background of a hype being created that there are only two major parties to steer this country ignoring the work being done by the Left parties. This is being done to sideline the importance of the Left which are in the forefront of the struggle for alternate policies.

We must remember that the global economic crisis has opened up possibilities of co-operation among trade unions at global level. The trade union movement must build a strong global resistance to the aspirations and ambitions of imperialism.

Today the unity and integrity of the country is challenged as never before. The regional imbalances, massive economic disparities and deprivations of the vast number of people are creating conditions for the growth of separatist and chauvinistic forces. There are efforts to polarize the Indian society on the basis of religion for electoral gains. The Neo-liberal policies are threatening the democracy itself. It must be remembered that unity of the nation and the working and toiling people is the pre-condition for the emancipation of the working class. As a trade union committed to fight neo-liberalism, imperialism and to protect the unity and integrity of the nation, a great responsibility has befallen on the AIIEA. The AIIEA must shoulder this responsibility with courage and determination.

We are sure that this Conference shall give us the confidence to meet the enormous challenges of our times. **On to the 23rd Conference of AIIEA!**

Comradely yours,



General Secretary.