**ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES’ ASSOCIATION**

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Cir.No.14 / 2015 19th August, 2015

To

All the Zonal/Divisional/State/Regional Units

Dear Comrades,

**MAKE SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 NATIONWIDE STRIKE A GRAND SUCCESS**

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The NDA government led by Shri. Narendra Modi came to power by promising that it will chart a course different from the path followed by the earlier UPA regime. After one year of Modi government, it has become clear the entire election campaign led by Modi was made on promises to the people while stealthily entering into business dealings with the corporate sector. Therefore, it is no surprise that the corporates funded the Modi campaign in an unprecedented manner. To the disappointment of the common people, the Modi government is making mockery of these electoral promises to the people as mere chunavi jumlas.

The Modi government today proclaims that its main objective is growth and growth alone is the solution to all problems of the nation. In order to achieve this growth, the government has to be over-friendly with the business houses and create conditions that they demand. The major demand of the corporate sector is to amend the existing labour laws and deny the workers whatever little protection they enjoy under these laws. The government has been moving in this direction with alacrity to amend the labour laws. The government has framed a Labour Code on Industrial Relations Bill amalgamating the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act and Trade Union Act. This Bill aims to reduce job security and make the registration of trade unions much more difficult. This Bill also lays down conditions of employment, investigations and settlement of dispute and makes the strikes extremely difficult, all to the advantage of industry and corporate houses. In fine, the Modi government wants to make Indian labour market and industry to be free of trade union movement.

Fortunately, the trade unions irrespective of the political affiliations are opposed to these amendments that will reduce the status of the workers to those of slaves. They have decided to jointly fight this onslaught of the Modi government on the working class. The trade unions have decided to challenge these policies through a One Day Nationwide strike on September 2, 2015. Massive preparations are being made across the country for the success of the strike. The trade unions have projected twelve major issues for this strike and important among them are agricultural distress, remunerative prices to the farmers, against price rise, growing unemployment and casualization of the workforce, universal social security for the workers, halting disinvestment in the public sector and a no to FDI in Railways, Defence and Insurance Sectors.

Faced with such massive discontent of the working class, the government is forced to talk to the trade unions on these demands through some senior ministers and also call for an Indian Labour Conference. But nothing much has emanated from these talks and the nation is poised to witness a massive strike on September 2, 2015. It is strange that the Modi government is refusing to learn any lessons from the crisis neo-liberalism has brought about across the world and from the situation in Greece. Neo-liberalism has destroyed economies and people by imposing austerity measures hitting the life and living standards of the people very hard. The 30 years of neo-liberalism has given rise to massive inequality and raised questions over the very sustainability of the societies. This period of neo-liberalism has also caused huge damage to democracy itself and a clear example is Greece where the people voted against a humiliating bail-out package but the government was forced by the lenders to accept the very same package. The Modi government’s promise to give clean governance looks hollow as it has bettered the UPA government with massive scams of corruption and illegality in the very first year of its rule.

The Modi government must give up its obsession with the growth figures. Growth by itself will not better the living standards of the common people unless the government intervenes strongly to deliver economic and social justice. The latest findings of the Socio Economic and Caste Census survey points out to the terrible conditions of rural India. The over 10 percent growth in the UPA regime failed to address the issues of the common people and only succeeded in further increasing income and wealth inequalities. The policies of the Modi government too will exactly do the same thing. It is, therefore, necessary to unitedly challenge these policies.

Insurance employees, as always, cannot be away from the nationwide struggles of working class. The Central Trade Unions irrespective of their political affiliations along with other independent Associations are holding a well-coordinated campaign to defeat the attacks on the working class for the success of September 2, 2015 strike action through state level conventions and meetings as per the decision at the National convention on 26.05.2015 at Delhi.

The insurance employees also suffer due to the government policies. The passage of insurance Laws Bill 2015 is nothing but to weaken public sector insurance industry and to disinvest it. Apart from this, the wage revision in LIC and GI Public sector companies is stuck due to a very unreasonable and unjust stand of the government. The Modi government on a number of occasions has said that it will not interfere in the functioning of the public sector respecting the autonomy of the management. But this is just a public posture. In reality, the government is making a mockery of functional autonomy of the managements in public sector insurance industry through its intervention even on micro issues. The Modi government wants to impose a wage settlement on the insurance employees totally unrelated to the industry’s growth, prosperity, paying capacity and the ever increasing productivity of the employees. This is simply outrageous. The refusal to concede the demand for another option to join the pension scheme, 1995 too emerges from this obnoxious policy of pushing the working class to unchartered defined contribution but non-defined benefit schemes.

The government is absolutely wrong both on moral and ethical grounds on these issues. Both LIC and the PSGI companies have made huge progress since the last wage revision backed by a totally committed workforce. The progress and prosperity of these institutions is in public domain. The short sighted policy of the government to deny adequate wage compensation to the workforce of the financial sector, which is the lifeline of the economy, can prove to be very disastrous in the long run. This is simply unacceptable and the government policy has to be fought with determined struggles.

Therefore, it is absolute necessary for the insurance employees to fight the anti-working and anti-poor policies of the government. This being our understanding, AIIEA calls upon all the insurance employees to join the 2nd September 2015 Nationwide strike in defence of our industry and protect our rights and also in the larger interest of the nation.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,



General Secretary