

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
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To

All the Zonal/Divisional/Regional/State Units,

Dear Comrades,

AIEA SECRETARIAT DECIDES ON CAMPAIGN AND AGITATION

The Secretariat of the AIEA met at Bengaluru on 22-23 July 2018. The meeting was held at "SOUHARDA"- the newly constructed union office building of AIEA units at Bengaluru. The basic agenda before the Secretariat was to review the performance of and challenges confronting the public sector insurance industry; to review and decide programmes of action in relation to the legitimate demands of the employees on issues like wage revision, one more option for pension, recruitment etc. as also to review the organizational position.

The Secretariat felt that it was meeting at a critical stage of world capitalist development. Inter imperialist contradictions, which had become subdued after the introduction of the neo liberal globalization process, are resurfacing again. The inter-imperialist contradictions have taken the contours of rivalry in different forms; Trade War in both goods and services and Currency War. These contradictions among the imperialist powers in matters related to trade, services and currency go on to establish beyond any shade of doubt that globalization had started retreating. While globalization is on the back foot, it has nonetheless led to intense misery for the working people all over the world. And this immiseration of a vast swathe of the working people has created the framework for the emergence of authoritarian regimes in many parts of the world including India.

The Secretariat discussed the obtaining situation of our country in great detail. It noted that the BJP led government at the centre was totally committed to neo liberal economic policies. The meeting noted with concern that despite the tall talk of the spokespersons of the government, neither the intentions of the government were clean nor its developmental agenda was in the right direction. Crony capitalism being pursued by the government had made India one of the most unequal places in the world, noted the Secretariat. While the apologists of the ruling classes in India were clamouring from rooftops that India had become a global super power, the facts speak otherwise. India slipped 21 places on the Global Gender Gap Index to 108, behind Bangladesh. India ranked 136 out of the total 144 countries in terms of participation of women in the economy. The Secretariat felt that despite the repeated attempts by the government to manipulate GDP growth figures, growth was faltering. The twin assaults of demonetization and GST had dealt a crippling blow to the economy, particularly to its unorganized sector. Exports were badly hit in the last four years; while imports were increasing very fast resulting in severe erosion in the value of the Indian Rupee.

The meeting however noted with satisfaction that despite the gloomy economic environment of the country, public sector insurance industry had performed admirably well in the financial year 2017-18. LIC recorded a total premium income of Rs.3,18,000 crores. Total income of LIC stood at Rs.5,17,000 crores. LIC invested Rs.2,62,000 crores in Central and State governments with annualized yield of 7.63%. With this outstanding performance LIC continued to be the market leader on the counts of both premium income and number of policies. The Secretariat also felt that the performance of public sector general insurance industry was also commendable. The public sector general insurance industry in India had registered an inflation adjusted growth rate of around 12% in 2017-18 against the global growth of a mere 2%. The Secretariat felt that consolidation of the four public sector general insurance companies was the best way to bring in economies of scale in the industry and fight competition. The Secretariat came to the unanimous understanding that the dilly dallying attitude of the managements of LIC and public sector general insurance on the important issues of the employees like One final Pension Option, Wage Revision and Recruitment in Class III & IV cadres was totally unjustified and the dissension and disenchantment of the employees had to be conveyed to the respective managements in no uncertain terms.

The Secretariat noted with concern that there was a motivated campaign to defame public sector insurance. The decision of LIC to purchase controlling stake in IDBI Bank has prompted some to demand privatization of LIC. They claim that policy holders' funds cannot remain safe as long as government retains control over LIC. The Secretariat refuted this logic with all the contempt it deserves and noted that the problems of IDBI bank and the Indian banking sector as a whole are due to the failure of the private sector. Suggesting privatization of public sector financial institutions and handing them over to the same persons who were responsible for their problems was something crude and dishonest, felt the Secretariat. The Secretariat made it clear that the decision of the government to dilute its holding below 50 per cent in IDBI is a clear case of privatization. Since the AIIEA as an organization is against privatization, and that too privatization of public sector financial institutions which are the backbone of the economy, the AIIEA would stand with the IDBI employees and officers in their struggle against privatization. The Secretariat appreciated that AIIEA had already written to the Chairman LIC expressing its concern over LIC's investment in IDBI and reiterated that the LIC Board and its investment team should take decisions based on the interests of LIC and its policyholders and not allow themselves to be coerced by the government in taking any investment decision of a huge magnitude. The Secretariat called upon the employees to intensify their campaign against the clamor of privatizing LIC by making common cause with other sections of the toiling people.

The Secretariat of AIIEA came to the unanimous understanding that a social upheaval of the worst kind was taking place in India. Myths and obscurantist views of all sorts were being spread to fan the fire of communalism. The meeting observed that this was going to pose a big challenge to the unity of the working class in the future. The meeting, therefore, resolved to deepen and broaden the unity of the working class on the basis of common class interests and fight the onslaughts of the neo liberal order.

In this context, the Secretariat welcomed the emerging struggles of the workers, peasants and agricultural workers and decided to extend solidarity to the 9th August 2018 'Jail Bharo Satyagraha' of the AIKS-CITU, 14th August 2018 'Ratri Jagaran Abhiyaan' and the 5th September 2018 'Mazdoor Kisan Rally' at New Delhi.

The Secretariat of AIEA took the following decisions after a marathon debate of over two days:

1. AIEA demands the functional autonomy for LIC and GIPSA to decide wage revision, Final Pension Option, Recruitment and on investments.
2. AIEA will demand opening of negotiations on upward revision of wage, one final option for Pension and Recruitment in Class III&IV cadres in LIC/PSGI companies.
3. While pressing the demand of one final option for Pension and Scrapping of the NPS Scheme for employees recruited after 01.04.2010, AIEA will make efforts to join the common struggle with the Central and State Government employees on this issue. AIEA will also keep open the option of going for Two Hour Walk Out Strike on this demand if and when the Central and State Government employees go for One Day Strike.
4. To hold Lunch Hour Demonstrations on 9th August 2018 (Quit India Movement Day) in front of all our offices in LIC / PSGI companies in solidarity with the 'Jail Bharo Satyagraha' of AIKS and CITU.
5. To participate wherever possible in the 14th August 2018 'Ratri Jagaran Abhiyan' against the disastrous anti people policies of the government.
6. To hold lunch hour demonstrations on 5th September 2018 in front of all our offices expressing solidarity with the "Mazdoor Kisan Rally" in New Delhi. Our units in Northern Zone, North Central Zone and Central Zone should try to mobilize maximum number of employees for this programme. Others can decide on this issue depending upon the situation in their Zones.
7. Our members in general insurance would jointly undertake signature campaign on the demands of merger of four PSGI Companies with GIEAIA and explore the possibility of human chain program.
8. The Secretariat resolved to take up with all seriousness pending issues like pay fixation issue of Ex-Servicemen employees, problems related to Mediclaim, recruitment, CGIT, Sports policy and other issues.

The Secretariat of AIEA met at a time which is very challenging for the working class of India. These are in fact the days of battle of ideas. And we have to win this battle of ideas at any cost. This can only be done by sharpening our ideological understanding. The first step in that direction should be the whole-hearted implementation of the programmes of action decided in the Bengaluru Secretariat Meeting of the AIEA.

INSPIRING EMPLOYEES MEETING

A meeting of the employees was organized on 23rd July 2018 at Jeevan Prakash premises at the conclusion of the Secretariat Meeting. Despite a very heavy downpour and continuous lashing of rains, employees from both the divisions of Bengaluru, General Insurance Employees and Pensioners assembled to know the decisions of the Secretariat. It was really inspiring to see that a large number of over 500 assemblage were women. Despite the rains wetting them, they refused to move to safer places. It is this commitment and love for the organization that makes AIIEA a great and unique organization. Com Amanulla Khan, President AIIEA, Com V.Ramesh, General Secretary, AIIEA and Com M.Girija, Jt.Secretary AIIEA addressed the employees.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,



General Secretary.