

**To All the Employees:**

Dear Comrades

**JANUARY 8-9, 2019 – TWO DAY NATIONWIDE STRIKE**

**Against Anti-worker policies and demanding  
Wage Revision, Pension Option, Recruitment  
Universal Social Security, Minimum wage of Rs.18000 and  
Remunerative prices to farmers**

Ten Central Trade Unions and independent federations of banks, insurance and other sectors of the economy have decided on a two day strike on January 8-9, 2019. The strike is to force the government to give up the anti-working class policies and to reorient the economic direction to improve the life and living of the working and toiling people. It is a strong signal to shift the focus of development from corporate to people. The All India Insurance Employees' Association and All India LIC Employees' Federation have decided to join this strike which is expected to be participated by nearly 150 million employees and workers across the country.

The demands projected in this strike are relevant to all sections of the working people including the insurance employees. In the last four years, the NDA government has divested nearly 2.09 lakh crore worth of equity in public sector undertakings. The Prime Minister's assertion that nationalisation of banking industry is a fraud clearly demonstrates the contempt the government has towards the Public Sector which has unarguably played the most important role in nation building. The government has begun dilution of its stake in the public sector general insurance industry and indications are clearly available that LIC would be the next target. The Strike call is to support the demand for a halt to the privatisation policy of the government.

The Indian economy is in a serious crisis and the fall out of this crisis is also being experienced in LIC with the slowdown of business. The economy is in crisis due to lack of purchasing capacity and high unemployment rate. While the government has recognised need based minimum wage at Rs.18000 per month; it is estimated that 92% of the female workers and 80% of the male workers do not earn more than Rs.10000/- per month. The fixed term employment adopted as a government policy through adoption of finance bill would be death knell to job security. This system will rob workers of job security and will have sociological impact in the long run. The rural India is in deep distress. Farming has become totally unremunerative and agriculture distress has made the life of farmers a real hell. The crisis of inadequate purchasing power is hurting the business potential of the insurance industry too. Therefore the demand to fix a minimum wage at Rs.18000/- per month and ensure remunerative prices is totally justified. This will increase the purchasing capacity benefitting the economy as a whole including LIC and PSGI companies. The demand to seriously tackle the unemployment situation would also help the demand for recruitment in LIC.

The strike demands introduction of a universal social security scheme. This demand adds further strength to our long pending demand for a final pension option and the struggle of the government and financial sector employees for scrapping of National Pension Scheme and

covering all the government and financial sector employees under the old defined benefit pension scheme.

The demand for respecting the functional autonomy of the public sector institutions helps our demand for functional autonomy to LIC and PSGI companies. Today there is a great need to give powers to the Board of LIC to take decisions on investments and on benefits to the employees. The investment decisions must ensure the protection of the interests of the policyholders and the decisions on benefits for employees must recognise their increased productivity and contribution to the institution. The wage and Pension in LIC and PSGI companies have no cost to the government. Why then, the government is not allowing these institutions to settle the wage demand and the pension?

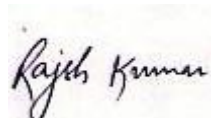
The economic direction this country has taken ever since 1991 has not benefitted the working and toiling sections of the Indian people. The miseries of these sections of the population have further intensified due to the aggressive pursuance of neo-liberalism by the present NDA government. The wealth and income inequalities in the country are at an alarmingly high level. The benefits of economic policies and growth are being cornered by one percent of the population. The top 1% now control over 52% of the national wealth. No democracy can accept such concentration of wealth when the majority of the people are afflicted by hunger, poverty and unemployment. The NDA government is making the living conditions of the workers much more difficult by amending the labour laws to benefit the industry and big corporate houses.

The deep discontentment of the people is clearly visibly with massive protests by workers, peasants and other sections in the recent period. These protests are demanding a reversal of policies that favour the big business and reorient the economic direction to place the people before profits.

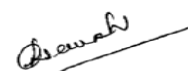
The country is surely going to see a massive strike on 8-9 January, 2018. The LIC employees will join this strike in protest against the inordinate delay in meeting the legitimate aspirations within the institutions while joining hands with other sections of the workers on common nationally important demands. The securing of these demands are necessary both to improve the life standards of the workers as also to overcome the deep crisis in the Indian economy. Let us, therefore, march forward to make the two day strike a total success.

With greetings,

Comradely yours



Rajesh Kumar  
General Secretary,  
All India LIC Employees' Federation



V. Ramesh  
General Secretary  
AIIEA