



President : Com Ashok Tiwari

Date : 18th May 2020

General Secretary : Com T K Chakraborty

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To

All Divisional/Regional/State units of AIIPA

Dear Comrades,

Re: Covid- 19 and Our Role & Responsibilities

All India Insurance Pensioners' Association (AIIPA) expresses its desire that all Insurance Pensioners and their families, all Family Pensioners and their kith and kin, stay healthy, stay safe and stay at Home.

The pandemic spread throughout the world, has in its wake, taken away many valuable lives, has devastated the world economy and has created ripples in social strata with job losses.

The Lock-down observed to contain the Corona virus has crippled the economic activities and major economies are coming out, with stimulus to revive the economy and to provide succor to those sections of the society affected by the economic down turn.

In our Country, attempts to break the chain of virus, through janata curfew and lockdown in three stages for 54 days has entailed closure of shops and establishments in both manufacturing and services sector.

The worst manifestation has been loss of livelihood for crores of migrants who had no job, no money, no facilities to go back to their native place. Though many had to trek miles and miles to reach their home immediately after lock down, now the Government has proposed Shramik trains to ferry the migrants and there has been debates on bearing of the cost of journey.

To boost up the sagging economy in a situation of Covid-19 outbreak, Government has come out with packages and almost all of them have not addressed the concerns expressed by the Left parties. The much publicised stimulus measures talks of loans to MSMEs, reduction in EPF Contribution, deferment of tax liability, early release of tax refunds etc. Both Central and most of state governments have frozen the D. A. payable to employees from January, 2020 to June, 2021.

The Twenty Lakh Crore stimulus, said to represent 10% of GDP, according to certain quarters, does not drain the coffers of the Government much and many of them are responsibilities of RBI and Public Sector Banks and deferment of tax liability is not a reduction in rate but a delayed payment to the Government. The reduction in EPF contribution is only a gain for the employers and a loss for the employees.

The latest announcement by the Finance Minister has opened up key sectors in mining, aviation, defence etc., and increase in FDI in defence production, privatisations of discoms and Air Ports, bodes ill for the economy. Already some State Governments have

diluted the provision of labour laws to the detriment of the workers. As part of the working class, we have to fight against these policies.

In response to the call of AIIPA, Insurance Pensioners have magnificently responded and contributed large sums to relief funds of Central and State Governments and besides, have stepped up efforts to help unorganised and marginalised workers and their families and Health and sanitary workers through provisions of rice, wheat and groceries in many centres, exhibiting their social consciousness, as an Organisation.

The number of cases of Covid -19 has risen above 86000 and there have been more than 2500 deaths and States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu constitute maximum number.

In contrast, the State of Kerala, where the first case of Covid was noticed, has shown exemplary efforts in containing the spread and reducing the deaths. The LDF Government led by Com. Pinarayi Vijayan and its Health Minister Shylaja Teacher have been in the forefront in creating awareness, organising community kitchens, catering to the needs of poor with door delivery of rations and above all Rs.20000 crore package to mitigate the difficulties. It is a matter of pride that the strenuous measures have been extolled by world organisations including W.H.O.

As Insurance Pensioners, we have to continue to be socially active simultaneously with precautions like face masks, social distancing and other preventive measures and support the measures of the Governments to contain the spread.

AIIPA wishes to remind all that Health is most important and let us all remain healthy, safe and stay within the precincts of our homes and future belongs to us.

Pensioners' Associations are advised to be periodically in touch with pensioners/family pensioners and cheer them up and request them to strictly adhere to the advisories of the government.

'STAY HOME. STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY.'

With Focus on a Healthy Life and Greetings,

Comradely yours



General Secretary