

**ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION**  
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To  
All the Zonal /Divisional /State /Regional Units

**AIEA SECRETARIAT MEETING DECIDES**  
**To Intensify the Campaign against LIC IPO and Privatisation of PSGI Companies**  
**To Intensify the Struggle for realisation Wage Revision in PSGI Industry**  
**To Join the Countrywide General Strike on 23-24 February 2022**

The Secretariat of the AIEA met on 11/1/2022 through online mode. The meeting was called to take stock of developments related to IPO of LIC, privatisation of PSGI companies, the long delayed wage revision in PSGI companies and other issues related to the employees and the insurance industry.

The secretariat was critical of the government's obsession with privatisation of public sector undertakings. Years of bungling in managing the economy has landed the Indian economy in a mess. The economic crisis continues despite tall claims of recovery. Private consumption, which constitutes a large part of the national economy, is still weak resulting in huge contraction of demand. Revival of the economy demands that public investment should be augmented. The government is however doing just the opposite. Rather than augmenting public investment to spur demand, a whole range of public sector institutions are being lined up for disinvestment. The secretariat felt that the only aim of the government appeared to be to realise the targeted amount of Rs.1,75,000 crore by way of disinvestment of PSUs unmindful of its harmful impact on the national economy and the people. The mad rush to anyhow bring the IPO of LIC before the end of this fiscal was but a part of this overall misdirected policy framework of the government, noted the secretariat.

The secretariat took note of the fact that both the government and the LIC management were in an overdrive on the issue of the IPO of LIC. The enthusiasm shown to go for large scale opening of Demat accounts and incessant advertisements in the media enticing policy holders to be in readiness for the impending IPO are indicative of the fact that the government wants nothing to be left to chance. Having already passed the necessary legislations to facilitate LIC's IPO, surreptitiously though, the government now wants to clear all the roadblocks on the path of LIC's disinvestment. The Secretariat congratulated the employees for the uncompromising struggle they had conducted for almost three long decades against the move to privatise LIC as per recommendations of the Malhotra Committee. The Secretariat was unanimous in its understanding that it was this ideological struggle of the employees, backed by the policy holders and the Indian people at large that prevented the implementation of Malhotra committee on privatisation for nearly 27 years. The struggle also helped in making LIC the market leader in spite of the intense competition. It was also this struggle, the secretariat reiterated, that forced the government to commit that LIC policies will continue to enjoy sovereign guarantee and government equity cannot be brought down to below 75 per cent till the next five years and it will always hold 51% stake in LIC. The secretariat termed these concessions as huge victories in the context of the prevailing political atmosphere where protest, dissent and disagreement of any kind is being sought to be delegitimised and the Indian State is being reduced to a Security State with scant regard for democracy and democratic values. The secretariat called upon the employees to utilise the space offered by these concessions and launch an intensive campaign on the need to protect and strengthen LIC in the public

sector. In this context, the secretariat appreciated the decision of the Joint Front Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to observe LIC Nationalisation Day – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022- as “Save Public Sector, Strengthen LIC Day” and called upon our units all over the country to observe this programme in a befitting manner in co-ordination with our Joint Front partners. Emphasising the need of protest and resistance, the meeting strongly felt that there is a need for an industrial action on the day LIC IPO opens for subscription to record our protest and forcefully display our determination to continue to resist the government policy on LIC. The Secretariat authorised the headquarters of AIEA to work for uniting all trade unions in LIC on this important issue.

#### **WAGE ISSUE IN GENERAL INSURANCE**

The Secretariat was highly critical of both the GIPSA management and the government of India over the inordinate delay in the wage settlement of employees in PSGI companies. The meeting felt that there was an absolute need to escalate the struggle programme under the banner of the Joint Front of Unions to force the government-management combine to concede the wage revision which the employees so legitimately deserve. **The Standing Committee (General Insurance) was requested to make necessary arrangements to see that the One Hour Walk Out Strike on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and One Day Strike on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were resoundingly successful.** The Secretariat felt that we cannot afford to loose our guard on the question of privatisation of PSGI companies. It was the considered opinion of the secretariat that the government might take up the issue of privatising PSGI companies much earlier than anticipated. Our units in general sector were therefore requested to remain prepared for struggle on the issue of privatisation.

#### **WORKERS UNITE ON THE SLOGAN ‘SAVE THE PEOPLE SAVE THE NATION’**

The Secretariat drew satisfaction from the fact that a large number of organisations representing the workers from the organised and unorganised sectors, farmers, students, youth, intellectuals and civil society are joining hands and building up solidarity against the destructive policies of neo-liberalism and privatisation. **All the central trade unions with the exception of the BMS have decided to organise a Two Day General Strike on 23-24 February 2022 on the slogan of “Save the People, Save the Nation”.** The Secretariat felt that this was an opportunity for insurance employees, fighting for the protection of their own industries, to integrate their struggle with that of the broader section of the toiling people in India and broaden the movement against privatisation of public sector insurance industry. The Secretariat therefore called upon insurance employees to join this historic Two Day Strike en masse and defeat the nefarious attempts to privatise India’s public sector insurance industry.

There was absolute unanimity in the understanding of the Secretariat that the historic farmers’ struggle against the draconian farm laws holds out an important lesson for all of us. Unity of the toiling people irrespective of caste, creed, religion and region can bring even the most arrogant and authoritarian regime to its knees. The farmers’ movement irrefutably demonstrated that sovereignty ultimately rests with the people in a democratic republic. The Secretariat therefore called upon insurance employees to draw inspiration from the heroic farmers’ movement and contribute to the building up of larger movements with a view to Save the People and Save the Nation.

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary