

ALL INDIA INSURANCE PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION SAROJA BHAVAN, MUTHALAKKULAM, KOZHIKODE - 673 004 (Kerala)

Circular Special/2022

June 2, 2022

Dear Comrades,

MEMORABLE SILVER JUBILEE YEAR CONFERENCE OF AIIPA

The Eighth General Conference of the All India Insurance Pensioners' Association took place in the city of Bangalore on 29 – 31 May, 2022 with great enthusiasm and gusto. This was also the Silver Jubilee Year of the organisation as it was founded in 1997. The Conference got off to a flying start on the morning of 29th May with hoisting of the organisation flag by Ashok Tiwari, President, AIIPA, amidst roaring slogans raised by a huge contingent of assembled delegates and other pensioners. The full throated slogans demonstrated that the pensioners though retired, refuse to be tired. They are still fired with the same struggling spirit and zeal as they were during the service period. Hoisting of flag was followed by floral tributes in Martyrs' Column by the leaders and the delegates.

INAUGURAL SESSION

The inaugural session of the Conference was held in the spacious hall of the Hotel City Centaur which was the venue of the Conference. Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das (Rtd) of Karnataka High Court inaugurated the Conference. In his highly illuminating speech he lauded the achievements of the public sector insurance industry particularly the LICI and said that it has earned the faith and confidence of the common people of this country. Despite stiff competition with the private companies for more than two decades LIC could retain seventy five percent of the market share. This is not a mean achievement; he said and underlined the stellar

contributions of LIC and the public sector insurance to the national economy. He deplored the government's move of disinvesting the shares of LIC with a view to privatise it eventually. Analysing the prevailing situation in the country he laid great emphasis on protecting the Republican Constitution of our country which today has been facing serious challenges. Pointing out that all independent countries are not republics he said that after Independence India became a Republic with a written constitution that united our country as a political entity amidst myriad diversities. This constitutes a remarkable achievement of post independent India. But today the developments in the country are going in wrong directions, he lamented. Constitution says, we are a sovereign country and sovereign means taking decisions independently. But are we taking decisions independently, he pointedly asked. Constitution provides for protection of minorities and social justice. But today minorities are being gravely discriminated and the concept of social justice has been reduced to only reservation. Parliamentary democracy has been facing serious erosion, he underlined. Forty eight percent of the bills are passed without any debate in Parliament. Eighty eight percent of MPs are crorepathis and forty eight percent are having criminal records, he pointed out. Emotive and divisive issues are being debated but not the issues of lives and livings of the common people. Communal polarisation being intensified and the meaning of secularism are being distorted. Article (370) was scrapped unconstitutionally. He said that Constitution envisaged a welfare state. But seventy percent of people above sixty do not have any legal protection of social security. In such a situation, he appealed to the pensioners and



Sri B.Suresh Chairman, Reception Committee



Justice H.N.Nagamohan Das



Com Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA

senior citizens not to keep silent but to speak up and guide the society so that the real spirit of our Republican Constitution is preserved and put into practice.

Com.K.Sreekant Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA also addressed the inaugural session and greeted the Conference. He informed the conference of the AIIEA's





Felicitation to Former Office-Bearers

A section of audience

Com T.K.Chakraborthy introducing Report

relentless efforts to realise the demand of family pension at a uniform rate of 30% and other issues of the pensioners. He also sharply criticised the government's move of issuing IPO of LIC and traced it to the policy of the present ruling dispensation to liquidate the entire public sector. Recalling the AIIEA's successful and ceaseless struggle against privatisation of the insurance sector for the last more than three decades, he asserted that the government's move to disinvest and eventually privatise LIC would be strongly resisted at every step. He called for close co-ordination between AIIPA and AIIEA.

Briefly addressing the inaugural session, Com. Amanulla Khan, former President, AIIEA and Editor, Insurance Worker said that multiple challenges in the economic, social, political arena were confronting the working people today. He pointed out that in the context of the utter mess created by the government with regard to LIC IPO, it has become all the more urgent and imperative to unleash a powerful campaign to assure the policyholders and the public at large that LIC continues to stand tall in terms of economic strength and their investments in LIC are safe and secure.

Sri D. Krishnan, General Secretary, All India Federation of LIC Retired Class I Officers' Associations greeting the Conference urged upon forging close unity of the pensioners' organisations. Several fraternal organisations including Bank and BSNL retirees organisation also attended the inaugural session.

The entire house gave a standing ovation to Com. Chandrasekhar Bose, one of the founders of Insurance Employees' movement and a centenarian, when he arrived at the inaugural session in a wheel chair. His very presence galvanised the whole session.

Earlier, B. Suresha, well known Playwright and Film maker, who was the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Conference delivered his welcome address. Several veterans who were the FOUNDERS AND FORMER OFFICBEARERS of AIIPA were also warmly felicitated in the inaugural session FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF THE ORGANIZATION.

DELEGATES SESSION

The Delegates' Session of the Conference started in the afternoon of 29th May. Two hundred eighty four delegates participated in the Conference of these two hundred twenty four were from Life sector and sixty from the General Insurance sector. Eleven were women delegates.

The Delegates' Session got off to an inspiring start with the chorus songs performed by a group of women pensioners. Com. T.K. Chakraborty, General Secretary, AIIPA placed the Report of the Central Committee while Com. S.Z.Dhote, Treasurer placed the audited accounts of the Association for the year 2018 to 2021.

The Report discussed the issues of the insurance pensioners both in Life and General Insurance sector in the backdrop of the prevailing international and national situation. The report strongly criticised the move of the present ruling dispensation to disinvest the shares of LICI and privatise the PSGI companies. It decried the strong arm methods adopted by the government to secure the passage of the GIBNA (Amendment) Bill 2021 to pave the way for wholesale privatisation of PSGI companies. It pointed out that the ultimate aim of LIC-IPO is the privatisation of LICI, which has been a brilliant success story of the public sector. The report underlined that all such moves are emanating from the neo-liberal economic policies pursued aggressively by the Modi/BJP LED NDA government, and are against the interests of not only the insurance clientele and the common people but also that of the nation. It called for powerful nationwide campaign and united struggle to resist these policies. Pensioners in league with the in-service employees must have a big role to play in such campaign and struggle.

The report narrated the efforts made by the AIIPA along with the AIIEA in achieving the demand for final option for pension, both in LIC and the public sector General Insurance. Due to the relentless persuasion of AIIPA some improvements could also be brought about in the Group Mediclaim both in LICI and the General Insurance Sector. The report expressed deep

discontent of the organisation at the fact that despite the recommendations of both LICI Board TWO YEARS BACK and GIPSA more than 6 months back, the government is yet to clear the issue of family pension at a uniform rate of 30 percent without any ceiling. It discussed the long pending issues of the insurance pensioners like uniform DA neutralisation rate for pre-August 1997 pensioners, updation of pension, computation of pension on the basis of last pay drawn or last ten months' average whichever is higher, full pension after 20 years of service, Defined Benefit Pension Scheme for all, improvements in Group Mediclaim Scheme, monthly cash medical allowance for domiciliary treatment etc and laid out the road map for the realisation of these demands.

OUR ORGANISATION

The Report noted with great happiness the growth of the organisation since the last General Conference both in Life and General Insurance. The growth of AIIPA in terms of membership is something remarkable though much remains to be done to further strengthen and consolidate the organisation. The Report underlined the need of closer co-ordination between the Pensioners organisations and called for identifying the organisation with the wider sections and democratic movement of the country.

57 delegates including seven women took part in the discussions on the Report. The discussion and debate was lively and constructive. All the delegates agreed with the basic formulations made in the Report and enriched it with their rich grass-root level experiences. They suggested several measures to further strengthen and broaden the organisation.

The Delegates' Session was greeted by Com S.Varalakshmi, President, CITU, Karnataka who shared experiences of the struggles of the unorganised sector working class in the State of Karnataka. The Conference also witnessed brilliant interventions in the discussion by Com. K. Venu Gopal, former General Secretary, AIIEA, Com. Amanulla Khan, former President, AIIEA and Com. K. Sreekanth Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA. It also had the privilege of listening to Com. Chandrasekhar Bose. All the leaders explained the challenges of the present situations confronting insurance pensioners and called for strengthening the AIIPA further.

The Report was unanimously approved after the summing up by the General Secretary. The audited accounts were also adopted unanimously by the house.

RESOLUTIONS

The Conference adopted unanimously several resolutions which are /as follows/:

 a) Demanding Universal Pension Scheme for all (b) Increase in family pension to 30% of pay (c) Updation of pension (d) Scrapping of New Pension Scheme and restoration of Defined Benefit Pension Scheme for all (e) Restoration of travel concessions to senior citizens (f) Grant of cash medical benefit (g) Scrapping of National Monetisation Pipeline (h) Against disinvestment and privatisation of LIC and PSGI companies (h) Against disinvestment and privatisation of LIC and PSGI companies. (I) Holding of priceline (j) On unemployment (k) Against communal polarisation and for strengthening the unity of the working people.

The Conference called upon all units of AIIPA to take initiative to hold Seminars/ Conventions throughout the country on the demand of Universal Pension Scheme for all. It also authorised the Secretariat to draw a relentless programme of actions on improvements in the pension scheme with a special emphasis on the issue of family pension at 30 percent without any ceiling.



Com K.Natarajan moving amendments



Com Chandrasekhar Bose Addressing Delegates

Another section of audience

Amendments to AIIPA Constitution

Com. K. Natarajan Vice-President, AIIPA, moved amendments to the AIIPA constitution on behalf of the Central Committee. These amendments are aimed at expanding the Secretariat and the Central Committee in view of the growing membership of AIIPA. All these amendments were accepted unanimously by the Conference.



Com Satanjib Das President Elect Com M.Kunhikrishnan General Secretary Elect

Com .G.K. Gangadhar Convenor, Reception Committee

OFFICE-BEARERS AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Conference unanimously elected the new Secretariat and Central Committee of AIIPA for the ENSUING TERM WITH HEADQUARTERS AT KOZHIKODE (KERALA). The elected Secretariat is as follows. The list of CC members will be sent in separate annexures.

President	:	Com. Satanjib Das (Guwahati)
Vice President	:	Coms. T. K. Chakraborty (Nagpur), M.L. Setiya (Delhi), Chandrasekhar Bharathi (Madurai), K Mohan Rao (Vizag) Vijay Malpure (Jabalpur), M.M.P. Verma (Patna), Debaprasad Gayen (Kolkata), S. Misra (Kanpur), J. Gurumurthy (General Insurance) Pradip Basak (General Insurance). One more Vice President will be co-opted from General Insurance Sector.
General Secretary	:	Com. M. Kunhikrishnan (Kozhikode)
Joint Secretaries	:	Com. K.K.C. Pillai (Kozhikode), Bhaskar Somayaji (Bengaluru), V.S. Nalawade (Satara), Atul Deshmukh (Raipur), R.N. Mallick (Cuttack), Satish Khandelwal (Jaipur), Priyabrata Bagchi (General Insurance), P.V. Subba Rao (General Insurance), P.K.Sharma (Gorakpur). One Joint Secretary each from LIC and General Insurance Sector are to the co-opted.
Treasurer	:	Com. P. Manoj Kumar (General Insurance, Kozhikode)
Assistant Treasure	r :	Com. T.C. Jagadish (Kozhikode)

The Conference authorised the Secretariat to co-opt one Vice President and two Joint Secretaries as mentioned above. The Conference felicitated and recorded with the gratitude with magnificent contributions made for long years by the Office-Bearers who demitted the office in this conference.

The newly elected President and General Secretary in their brief address pledged to make the AIIPA stronger through collective functioning AND REASSURED NO EFFORTS WILL BE SPARED TO PROTECT AND FURTHER THE INTERESTS OF THE INSURANCE PENSIONERS.

SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION

The Conference came a successful conclusion on 31st May. It was a historic conference with rich deliberations and participation of large number of women delegates. The Conference sent a clear message that we are not overawed by the extremely difficult times that we live on. The Conference decided to not only advance the interests of the insurance pensioners but also give voice to the sections of the working class and toiling masses from the vulnerable sections of the society. The Conference displayed total confidence in the ability and capacity of the organisation in meeting the challenges of the times.

Cultural Evening

In the evening of 29th May, an exquisite cultural evening was organised. The delegates were enthralled by the programme of dance drama. It was really a sublime and enlivening experience.

Kudos to the Reception Committee

The Reception Committee of the Conference made EXCELLENT AND all-out arrangements for holding the Silver Jubilee Year Conference in a befitting manner. About 200 volunteers OF ICEU, BENGALURU I & II, ICPA AND GIPA worked round the clock. It is their untiring work that made the Conference successful and memorable. The Conference expressed its gratitude and profusely thanked these comrades for their tireless work in making the conference an unprecedented success.

The 8th (Silver Jubilee Year) Conference will remain etched in our memory for a long time to come as a memorable and purposeful event. LONG LIVE AIIPA

Comradely yours,

(M.Kunhikrishnan) General Secretary