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Cir.No.21 / 2022

30th June, 2022

To
All the Zonal /Divisional /State /Regional Units

Floods in Assam leave a trail of Destruction
Let's Reach Out to the Floods affected People

The state of Assam is in the grip of severe floods. Heavy rains since mid-June have caused severe floods. Both the Barrack and Brahmaputra valleys are severely affected. In 33 out of 35 districts in the state, the flood has left a trail of destruction and devastation. It is estimated that around 60 lakh people have been affected by the floods. More than 150 people have died till now. Around 60,000 animals are reported to have been washed away. Preliminary estimates suggest that over one lakh hectare of agricultural land have been damaged. Roads are completely inundated. Flood water has severely destroyed railway lines in Dima-Hasao district that connects both the valleys of the state. Apart from the Brahmaputra, other rivers like Beki, Manas, Pagladiya, Puthimari, Kopili, Subansiri etc. are in spate. Heavy rain has caused landslides in Cachar, Dima-Hasao, Goalpara, Hailakandi, Kamrup and Karimganj districts.

Silchar town in the Barrack valley has been the worst affected. Due to some breach in embankments, river Barrack flowed through Silchar town causing unprecedented havoc. Each lane and bylane in Silchar town has literally become a tributary of the Barrack river. Ground floors of a large number of houses, including those of our employees, are still submerged. There is no electricity in Silchar for the last 8-10 days. There is an acute shortage of drinking water, food and medicines. Lakhs of marooned people in both the valleys have taken shelter in relief camps. Our employees are also severely affected. Despite our best efforts, we could not contact our Comrades in Cachar valley for over a week due to power outages. The floods have been equally devastating for our own comrades also. We are however proud to inform that our Comrades in Silchar, despite the adversity that they themselves are facing, are distributing water bottles and other essential items among the poor and needy by hiring a boat. Naturally, the resources at their disposal are nothing compared to the magnitude of the crisis.

Rescue and relief operations by the state government are however half-hearted. In most of the areas, people are left to fend for themselves. Assam today, unfortunately, holds out a tragic spectacle of utter insensitivity of the government to the suffering of lakhs of people. The AIIEA cannot remain a mute spectator at the time of this crisis. We must unite and stand in solidarity with the flood affected people of Assam. We call upon all our members to contribute generously towards the relief of flood affected people of Assam. The AIIEA is remitting a sum of Rs.5 lakhs as the first instalment of the relief effort. We call upon our units to complete their collections by the first fortnight of July so that the relief effort can be taken up by our units in Assam immediately.

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours

Shreekanth Mishra

General Secretary