

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
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To

All the Zonal /Divisional /State /Regional Units

Dear Comrades,

AIIEA/ AIIPA REACH OUT TO THE FLOOD AFFECTED PEOPLE OF ASSAM
SCHOOL BUILDING RENOVATED WITH FLOOD RELIEF COLLECTIONS

This year Assam witnessed one of the worst floods in recent memory. About two hundred people including fifty five children and ten women lost their lives. Around 89 lakh people were badly affected by two spates of the floods during April to July. With little support from the central and state governments, people were left to fend for themselves. In this situation, the AIIEA and AIIPA gave a call to insurance employees and pensioners to contribute liberally for providing some relief to the flood affected people of Assam.

We are happy to inform that employees and pensioners responded massively to this call for donations. Till now, the AIIEA and AIIPA have contributed Rs.35 lakhs and Rs.7.5 lakhs respectively. Relief works are now underway with the funds mobilised from all over the country. So far, relief works have been organised in Harijora, Madekhata, Bongaon (Maharipara) and Nathkuchi village in Baksa district which is one of the worst affected areas. Each family was provided with a packet of three kgs of rice, 1 ½ kg of pulses, one litre of edible oil, potato, onion, soybean, salt, two pieces of soap and a bottle of phenyl. In the relief effort at Shatikuchi village under Nalbari District, a packet of a blanket, bedsheet and mosquito net was distributed among three hundred plus families. Till now, relief has been distributed among two thousand families of twenty worst affected villages. The Silchar Divisional Unit of AIIEA and AIIPA distributed relief among more than 1000 families in the Barak valley, which was the worst affected area. Each family was provided with a relief packet containing bedding materials like blankets, bedsheets, sarees, lungis etc.

The high point of the relief works is the effort of the AIIEA and AIIPA to rebuild the infrastructure of a flood hit government high school building at Galdighala in the Nalbari district of Assam. At a time when the state government of Assam has been closing down hundreds of government schools on different pleas, the effort of the insurance employees to renovate six flood ravaged rooms of the building has come in for much appreciation from all quarters. The renovated school buildings were inaugurated by Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary AIIEA in a well- attended public meeting at Galdighala, Adabari in Nalbari District around 40 kms away from Guwahati.



Addressing the meeting, Com. Shreekant Mishra said that the AIEA and AIIPA gave a countrywide call to the insurance employees and pensioners to contribute towards the relief of the flood-affected people of Assam. He expressed satisfaction that with those contributions AIEA and AIIPA could play a humble role in building up infrastructures of a flood-ravaged public school of Assam, and help its student to some extent. He emphasised that without strengthening and expanding the public educational system mass education is not possible and the country cannot come out of the darkness of illiteracy and ignorance.

Head Master of the School, Riazuddin Ahmed in his address expressed his thanks and gratitude to the AIEA and AIIPA for their noble gestures. Others who addressed the meeting include Com. Bhabendra Kr. Kalita, Joint Secretary LIC Pensioners' Association, Guwahati Division; Com. P. Rajbhandari, General Secretary, GDIEA; Com. Bhubaneswar Barua, General Secretary NERGIPA; Com. Tiken Das, Secretary, Assam State Kisan Sabha and local leader of Construction Workers Union affiliated to CITU, Com. Jainal Ali Ahmed. Com. Satanjib Das, President, AIIPA, presided over the meeting.

School Bags were distributed to over 370 students of the School soon after the inauguration of the renovated school building. People of the locality enthusiastically participated in the programme and



appreciated the role of insurance employees in bringing relief to the flood affected people. The Assam State unit of All India Kisan Sabha extended all possible help in distribution of relief and the rank and file of the Construction Workers Union affiliated to CITU helped in the renovation of the school building. We are thankful to these organisations for their help and co-operation.



AIIEA profusely thanks insurance employees and pensioners for the magnificent humanitarian intervention in the state of Assam. At the same time, we realise that it is difficult for a trade union alone to take care of the welfare of the people through contributions of the employees and pensioners. It is the State that has to come forward to help people in distress. The State under neo-liberalism however is withdrawing itself so far as providing relief to the common man is concerned; the State is hyperactive when it comes to giving bonanza to the rich and powerful. We must educate the people about this and agitate for a course correction. That is the bigger task today.

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours
Shreekanth Mishra
General Secretary