



BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION OF INDIA

NARESH PAUL CENTRE

53 Radha Bazar Lane, (1st Floor), Kolkata – 700 001

e-mail: pradipbefi@yahoo.co.in Website: www.befi.in

(Ph):033- 2225-4414/2236-5108 (M) 94331 44271 Fax: 033-2236-5109/2242-0690

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To all Units, Office Bearers, CC & GC Members

Comrade N M Sundaram Passes Away

Comrade Narayanan Meenakshi Sundaram who was fondly called NMS, is no more. The tall leader of Insurance Trade union movement passed away on 26.12.2017 morning around 8.20 a.m. succumbing to massive heart attack. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Born on 8th January 1938 and a graduate in Economics from Katmandu University Com. Sundaram joined LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India) in the year 1957 and in 1963 he became the General Secretary of South Zone Insurance Employees Federation (SZIEF), in 1972 he became the Joint Secretary of All India Insurance Employees Association (AIIEA). In the year 1988 he was elected as the General Secretary of AIIEA. He was later elected as the President of AIIEA. During this period he not only led the insurance movement but was a guiding spirit of the general Trade Union movement of this country also.

Com. Sundaram was a crusader against neo liberal reforms and led the campaign among the public against Malhotra committee recommendations allowing private players in the Insurance Sector and disinvestment of LIC and General Insurance Companies in Public Sector. He led heroic struggle of the insurance employees against IRDA bill culminating in strike joined by BEFI as a solidarity action on 1st Dec 1999. This is a part of the history.

Com. Sundaram played a vital role in the struggle for Pension as a third retrial benefit by forging unity with the Bank employees and officers including Reserve Bank of India employees through formation of Joint Action Committee (JAC) during the period 1991-93. BEFI was a proud partner of this struggle. That struggle only paved way for the dignified defined benefit pension for lakhs of employees and officers in the banking and insurance sector.

Com. Sundaram was an attractive orator, skillful negotiator, voracious reader and prolific writer. He was the personification of humbleness and humility. He has authored many books of which “Global Finance Capital on the Rampage”, “Fragility of Global Finance Capital” and “Politics of Anti-Development” are worth mentioning. He was instrumental in raising the consciousness of the workers beyond their direct and immediate benefits of rise in wages and improvement in service conditions to the need for establishment of a secular, truly democratic, casteless society. Com NMS took special efforts to ensure participation of women in Trade Union (TU) activities and grooming them to the leadership positions.

His demise has created a void which will be difficult to fill up.

BEFI dips its banner in honour of the departed leader and conveys its deep condolences to the bereaved family members and thousands of workers particularly insurance workers.



(PRADIP BISWAS)
GENERAL SECRETARY