

## CHAPTER-II

### JOURNEY OF AIACE

हम अकेले ही चले थे जानिब ए मंजिल मगर, लोग साथ आते गए और कारवाँ बनता गया....

**We started alone towards the Goal, but people joined us and caravans built....**

ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF COAL EXECUTIVES(AIACE) was formed on 16/5/2015 by Sri P K Singh Rathor, Sr Manager(IED), SECL Korba Area. He had announced on 1/5/2015 that if Coal Mines Officers Association of India (CMOAI) fails to resolve the issue of PRP and others, he would resign from CMOAI wef 16/5/2015. Sri Rathor resigned from CMOAI on 16/5/2015 as PRP and other issues of working and retired executives were not resolved. With the consent of like-minded officers of SECL Korba Area and support from other executives from CIL/SCCL, it was announced regarding formation of new association of coal executives named AIACE.

Just after formation of AIACE, Sri Rathor rushed to Pune to meet Sri P S Bhattacharya, Ex Chairman, Coal India Ltd who was residing in Pune. It was the last week of May, 2015, he met with Sri Bhattacharya. Sri Bhattacharya listened the views patiently and appreciated the cause. He suggested to include retired executives also in AIACE because they also have stake and interest in years to come. So, it was decided that AIACE will have members from both working and retired executives.

Soon after meeting at Pune, Sri Rathor made first visit to Asansol in first week of June and visited some of areas of ECL and met with many executives to explain the compelling situation for formation of AIACE. In fact, executives of ECL field became the nucleus of AIACE and they readily formed the Asansol Branch of AIACE.

The story of AIACE, Asansol branch is very unique and most unforgettable. A meeting on 6th June, 2015 was planned in CMPDIL, RI-I club that day and due permission was obtained from RD, RI-I, Asansol unit. All the arrangements like seating arrangements, banner placements, dias arrangements were done. About 20 to 25 members turned up for the meeting but in the last moment, we were denied permission for the meeting due to excessive pressure from CMOAI, ECL HQ to foil the meeting.



But we succeeded in arranging a small meeting at Shristinagar, Asansol where 5 to 6 members turned up.



It is worth to recall that our Convenor Sri P K Singh Rathor had told the then RD, RI-I of CMPDIL, Asansol to wait for 5 years to see the impact of AIACE. Today the AIACE, Asansol team is doing excellently and most powerful Branch having highest membership strength .This was possible only due to the joint efforts of all the members.



After that Sri Rathor had toured Dhanabad, Ranchi, Delhi, Patna, Bhubneshwar, Nagpur, Talcher, Sambalpur, Kothagudem (Telangana), Varanasi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Singrauli, Durgapur, Chandrapur and other places.

The association was registered under The Trade Union Act with Chhatisgarh Govt and the registration no is 546 dated 24/5/2016. It has got permanent account no. (PAN) with no. as AAEEA7978E. The registration and permanent account numbers, an association must have for collecting any subscription from members, otherwise the collection of any amount may be treated as illegal.

In the last 3 years, AIACE conducted meetings each in Kolkata, Asansol, Dhanabad, Ranchi, Delhi, Bilaspur, Bengaluru ,Nagpur, Samabalpur, Talcher, Patna, Bhubnewshar, Mandamari (SCCL), Kothagudem (SCCL) , Hyderabad ,Jabalpur ,Mumbai, Bhopal and other smaller meetings in different areas of Coal India and Singreni collieries from time to time.

AIACE has charted out core issues concerning working and retired executives of CIL and SCCL. Its representatives are meeting parliamentarians. state legislators and govt officials for pressing their issues for solution.

It is working over one major issue for enhancement of pension. Coal pensioners are apprehending that they may not get pension in future, if something concrete is not done at the moment. The working executives and employees will be the worst sufferer if the issue of pension is not addressed properly.