

Shri Basab Banerjee in his Power Point presentation, observed that, with the massive infrastructure investment allocation during XIIth Five Year Plan (2012-2017), the Government is concerned on the competency and skill of our workers as India's position is at the bottom of the chart on productivity. He also stated that, the Government offers all supports including financial support upto the extend of 75% to Institutions for undertaking training and certification courses for workers. It is in this connection he came to address members of BAI and invited questions from Members. He also expressed hope on BAI's reach and mass membership base will play a very crucial role in certifying a large number of Construction Workers.

Dr. Brahm Datt, Past President & Past Trustee; Shri A.S. Chinnaswamy Raju, Past President & Past Trustee; Shri B.N. Dikshit, Past President; Shri D.L. Desai, Trustee; Shri B. Seenaiah, Past Vice President; Shri H.N. Vijaya Raghava Reddy, Past Vice President; Shri A. Puhazhendi, Past Vice President; Shri CH Ramkotaiah, Chairman, Visakhapatnam Centre; Shri K. Sridhar, Past Chairman, Karnataka (Bangalore) Centre; Shri S.I. Chunkhare, Shri D.C. Awasthi, Shri Ashish Wig and others have participated in the discussion.

Shri Basab Banerjee gave his address and contact numbers and requested members to contact him for further details.

The President appreciated Shri Basab Banerjee for his presentation and assured all support and co-operation of BAI to the initiative of skill development of construction workers. He also observed that, India is heading towards a major labour crisis as there is shortage for even unskilled workers. He also requested members to make use of the opportunity as Construction Industry is in dire need of skilled construction workers and also reminded members on the massive infrastructure investment expected in the XIIth Five Year Plan (2012-17).

(iv) Provident Fund Matter.

The Hon. General Secretary requested Shri D.L. Desai (Shankarbhai) to apprise members on the present status of the matter.

Shri D.L. Desai (Shankarbhai) stated that, BAI though upto an extent, succeeded in convincing the Department on the impracticability of covering casual and temporary construction workers in the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme could not achieve a breakthrough in the matter. He further stated that, BAI also represented to the Department to treat construction workers at par with Cine workers, who are entitled to be covered in the Scheme only after working with three films or movies. BAI also pointed out the qualification period provided in the P.F. Act for workers working with Newspaper Industry, wherein a worker is covered in the Scheme only after continuous service of 60 to 90 days period. He then stated that, BAI Delhi Centre have filed a Writ Petition at Delhi High Court challenging the applicability of extending the E.P.F. Act to the casual and temporary construction workers from day one. The matter is now kept for final hearing on 29th September 2011 and BAI is considering to change the Counsel.

Shri A. Puhazhendi informed members that, BAI Madurai Centre also filed a Writ Petition at Madras High Court on the P.F. issue and the Hon'ble Court has granted stay on contribution of Provident Fund for construction workers. He also stated that, this stay order helped many contractors in Tamil Nadu.

The President then informed members that, Shri Ravi Wig, one of the Trustees (Central Board of Trustees in the EPF Department) have visited our Karnataka (Bangalore) and Southern (Chennai)