

SYNDICATE BANK PENSIONERS & RETIREES ASSOCIATION (REGD.)

(Affiliated to AIBPARC)

CENTRAL OFFICE

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(PLEASE CIRCULATE TO ALL MEMBERS/ RETIREES)

Circular No.34/2019

Date: 12.09.2019

Dear Comrades,

CBPRO WRITES TO IBA ON HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY – A REJOINDER,

In a befitting reply to IBA which tried to escape from its responsibility to render justice to retirees by claiming that it is a voluntary organisation, CBPRO has sent a rejoinder and reiterated the need to mitigate the suffering of retirees by making some changes in the IBA health insurance policy. Text of the letter is annexed herewith for information of all.

With warm greetings,

Yours comradely

**SBPRA - ZINDABAD
AIBPARC – ZINDABAD
CBPRO - ZINDABAD**

C Gangadhar Yadav
GENERAL SECRETARY

Text of Letter Dated: 09.09.2019 Quote//

Shri V G Kannan,
Chief Executive,
Indian Banks Association
Mumbai.
Respected Sir,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 6th September, 2019 regarding the above subject. The contents of the letter has resulted in great disappointment to all Bank Retirees who were eagerly expecting consideration of the suggestions made by us in our letter dated 2.9.2019 addressed to The Chairman IBA and to your Good Self. We are at a loss to understand why such a treatment should be meted out to Bank Retirees who had played a pivotal role in the growth and services of the Banking Industry during their tenure of service.

1. Your letter conveys to us that IBA being a Voluntary Organisation, discusses with apex level Workmen Unions and Officers Associations as per the mandate by the member Banks.
2. In this connection we wish to point out that the Charter of Demands given by the Workmen Unions and Officers 'Associations also consists of issues of Bank Retirees such as Medical Benefit, Updation of Pension, Family Pension and other important issues concerning the Bank Retirees. It is also a fact that Bank Retirees issues were discussed during negotiations and accordingly in the past wrong fixations of Basic Pension in the 7th Bi-Partite settlement was corrected in the 8th Bi-Partite settlement (later on Supreme Court further corrected it retrospectively from 1998), the Second Option for Pension was also resolved in the 9th Bi-Partite settlement.

3. The Group Medical Insurance Scheme both for serving employees and Retirees was introduced in the 10th Bi-Partite settlement. This came about because of the communication from Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Dept of Financial Services vide their communication dated 24.02.2012. While implementing the communication the IBA made the scheme available to the serving employees making the Banks to bear the premium of the serving employees but unfortunately avoided to extend the same benefit to the Bank Retirees.
4. Hence it is clear that the Group Medical Insurance Scheme is the result of a negotiated settlement at the instance of Ministry of Finance, Govt of India and to say now that IBA does not have mandate either from the member Banks or the Government is factually not correct.
5. You will observe that from the time of introduction the Group Medical Insurance Scheme year after year the premium kept on rising manifold forcing many Bank Retirees to opt out of the scheme helplessly as the Premium used to be as heavy as almost swallowing the entire annual pension of family Pensioners and ex-gratia Bank Retirees.
6. Many of the Banks did away with their own Medical Benefit schemes once the Group Medical Insurance Scheme was introduced forcing the Bank Retirees either to cling to the Group Medical Insurance Scheme or go without any Medical Benefit/Insurance Scheme pushing them to total vulnerability and deprivation.
7. With this they cannot also now go for any Medical Insurance Scheme because of their advanced age or pre-existing ailments.
8. We had requested in our letter dated 02.09.2019 some minor changes in the Insurance Scheme so that the premium can be reduced to some extent at least like reduction in Room Rent to Rs4000/- as was agreed last time, different slabs of Insurance Policy suiting the requirement of those who get meagre pension like award staff Retirees, Family Pensioners and Ex-gratia Retirees.
9. Affordable Medical Benefit Schemes are available in all Public Sector Undertakings to Retirees and in some cases as available to Central Government Employees. Medical care of the Retired employees is also the responsibility of the Employer in line with the Social Security philosophy and Corporate Social Responsibility.
10. If the Insurance Scheme is on identical terms as applicable to serving employees then the payment of premium also should be borne by the Banks for their Retirees also. Alternatively if any further increase is there in the premium for the Retirees then at least the increased portion should be borne by the Banks along with the GST component so that some relief is given to the Retirees in respect of Medical Insurance Premium.
11. We once again urge upon the Management Committee of IBA to get to the heart of the problem and render justice to the Senior Citizens of the Banking Industry who had served the Banks with sincerity and guided the Banks in their growth and implementation of Government's policies and programmes.

With regards,
Yours Sincerely,

Sd/-
(K V Acharya)
Joint Convener, CBPRO

Sd/-
(SC Jain)
General Secretary, AIBRF //Unquote