

SYNDICATE BANK PENSIONERS & RETIREES ASSOCIATION (REGD.)

(Affiliated to AIBPARC, a wing of AIBOC)



CENTRAL OFFICE

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Cir.No.9/2018 (PLEASE CIRCULATE TO ALL MEMBERS/ RETIREES) Date: 23/03/2018

Dear Comrades,

**CBPRO MEETING HELD AT DELHI
DECIDES FUTURE PLAN OF ACTION
MARCH TO PARLIAMENT AND PM'S HOUSE PROPOSED**

A meeting of apex level leaders of all constituents of Coordination of Bank Pensioners and Retirees Organisations (CBPRO) was held at New Delhi on 16th of March 2018. The meeting took stock of the prevailing situation in the financial sector, banking industry, wage revision talks, efforts made by CBPRO through meetings and correspondence in pursuit of retirees pending demands, various recent court decisions in retirees' matters etc. A plan of action was chalked out for implementation in stages. The text of circular No. 7 dated 17.03.2018 issued by CBPRO conveners furnishing the details of proceedings and programmes is appended herein below for the information of all. We call upon all our functionaries, activists and members to make the programmes successful as and when advised.

With greetings

Yours comradely,

C Gangadhar Yadav

GENERAL SECRETARY

SBPRA - ZINDABAD

AIBPARC - ZINDABAD

CBPRO - ZINDABAD

Text of Circular No. 007/2018 Dated: 17.03.2018 of CBPRO

Quote//To,

All General Secretaries,
Constituents of CBPRO

Dear Comrades

CBPRO MEETS AT DELHI ON 16.03.2018

The leaders of constituents of CBPRO met at New Delhi on 16.03.2018. The meeting was called in view of various developments in respect of Bank Retirees issues as also other important developments in the Banking Industry.

The meeting was presided over by Shri P.K. Pathak, Vice President of Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations and General Secretary of SBI Pensioners' Association, Delhi Circle. Com. Ramesh Babu could not attend the meeting on health grounds and sought leave of absence. Leaders from various constituents of CBPRO attended the meeting along with their Senior Office Bearers. Com. Suprita Sarkar, General Secretary, AIBPARC, Com. Subhash Chand Ahuja, Vice President, RBONC, Com. R.K. Acharya, General Secretary, AIRBEA,

Com. M. D. Deshpande, President, FORBE were present on the dais along with Com. K. V. Acharya, Joint Convenor, CBPRO.

The house expressed heartfelt condolence over the demise of Com. R.N. Banerjee, President of Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations. Com. Banerjee was the founder Chairman of CBPRO and had been our philosopher and guide. His inspiring leadership gave tremendous boost to the formation of CBPRO which is seen by all Bank Retirees as their Central Organisation spearheading the long pending issues of the Retirees. The house also condoled the sad demise of Com. S. R. Sengupta, founder General Secretary of AIBPARC who also led the Bank Officers Movement as President and General Secretary of AIBOC and also as the first Convenor of UFBU. Deep Condolences were also expressed for the sad demise of Com. Lakshmi Narsaiah, former General Secretary of NCBE and former Convenor of UFBU and Com. N.M. Sundaram, former General Secretary of ALL India Life Insurance Employees Union who was also a great supporter of Bank Employees and Officers Movement. While condoling the demise of many Retiree Comrades during the intervening period the meeting also expressed anguish as many Retiree Comrades breathed their last without getting justice due to the unrelenting attitude of various authorities on the genuine issues of the Pensioners and Retirees.

After the initial Presidential remarks by Com. P K Pathak, a brief report was presented by Com. K V Acharya in respect of various activities of CBPRO between the last meeting of CBPRO at Kolkata on 23.05.2017 and the present meeting at Delhi.

Com. Acharya apprised the house about the follow up of the directions of the Kolkata Meeting which included the following:

1. A delegation of CBPRO met Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon'ble Minister of Finance on 02.06.2017 and not only submitted a memorandum but also apprised the Hon'ble Minister about the pending issues of Retirees and explained about the anxiety of the Bank Retirees due to the inordinate delay in resolving their genuine issues.
2. We also met Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwarji, the then MOS for Finance and Shri S P Shuklaji, present MOS for Finance and sought their help in resolving the pending issues.
3. We also met Shri Nitin Gadkarji, Hon'ble Union Minister, Smt. Sumitra Majanji, Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha and Shri Ananth Kumarji, Hon'ble Union Minister.
4. The above efforts on our part facilitated meetings with Senior Officials of Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance on a regular basis.
5. The CBPRO leaders also met Com. D.T. Franco, General Secretary, AIBOC, Com. Dilip Saha, President, AIBOC, Com. C H Venkatachalam, General Secretary, AIBEA and addressed letters to Com. Sanjeev Bandlish, Convenor, UFBU and to all General Secretaries of UFBU Constituents urging upon them to take up with IBA the issues of the Bank Retirees on an urgent basis.
6. Leaders of the Constituents of CBPRO also met the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and other Senior Officials of IBA during this period.
7. A fervent appeal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister was also made by writing a letter mainly mentioning about (a) Pension Updation (b) Improvement in Family Pension (c) 100% DA Neutralisation (d) Extension of 2nd option to compulsorily Retired Members (e) Extension of

2nd option to Resignees with pensionable service (f) Medical Insurance (g) Reckoning of Special Allowance for Superannuation entitlements.

Though our persistent efforts are yet to result in lasting solutions to the important issues, the silver line was that some improvements have taken place in respect of the implementation of the Hon'ble Courts judgments in regard to:

i. Implementation of Pension Regulation 26 giving the benefit of additional service to the Specially Recruited Members with special qualifications and age relaxation.

ii. Landmark judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court striking down the provisions of explanation (c) to Regulation 2(s) removing the distortion that had taken place in fixing the Basic Pension with the different DA merger @ 1616 for Retirees as against DA merger @ 1684 for the Pay scales of Serving Employees. **The judgment very clearly stated that there cannot be any arbitrary provisions repugnant to the provisions of Regulation 2(d), 35, 38(1) and 38(2). This affirmation of the validity of Pension Regulations and implementation of the same cannot be arbitrarily altered to the disadvantage of the Retirees by inserting an explanation or making amendments to the Pension Regulations.**

iii. In spite of Hon'ble High Courts and Hon'ble Supreme Court giving the benefit of 2nd option to Compulsorily Retired members, the same was denied to the affected compulsorily retired members. CBPRO was consistently taking up this issue in all our correspondences and meetings with various authorities and ultimately succeeded in getting communication from IBA to all Banks to extend the 2nd option to affected Compulsorily Retired Members.

It is also felt in the meeting that on the same lines 2nd option for Pension should be extended to Resignees with Pensionable service and CBPRO should further pursue the matter with IBA.

A note mentioning few points and views from RBONC sent by Com. R. D. Deshpande, General Secretary, RBONC was also read out which also contained the points mentioned in the Joint Conveners' report

It was also discussed in the meeting that the Bank Managements should follow the guidelines given by the Government to conduct regular grievances redressal meetings at Bank level with the Retirees' Organisations.

The meeting appreciated the initiatives taken by RBONC Affiliates, AIRBEA and ARISE affiliate of AIBPARC and individual Retirees in the above cases by filling writ petitions or by impleading in the writ petitions very effectively and thereby getting favourable judgements.

The meeting also noted and appreciated the role played by the leadership of FORBE in approaching and discussing the Retirees' issues with Ministers and Political Leaders.

The supremacy of the Pension Regulations which are Statutory in nature is clearly spelt out in the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgments which should also help us in pursuing the very important issue of Pension Updation which is clearly provided in Pension Regulation 35(1).

It is a matter of satisfaction that we have got some success albeit due to Court interventions. As regards 100% DA Neutralisation our pre-2002 Retiree Comrades are anxiously waiting for the pronouncement of the reserved judgment by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as about eight

months have already passed. But at the same time going by the sensitivities involved in respect of court matters we have no choice but to wait till the Hon'ble Supreme Court pronounces the judgment.

The house also observed the attempts to malign the Public Sector Banks in the face of developments in Punjab National Bank. The attack on the Public Sector Banks and cry for privatisation of the Public Sector Banks is nothing but an attempt to cover up the wrong doings at the highest level. As former Bank Employees and Officers, we owe it to posterity to resist such moves with full convictions since Nationalised Banks have been doing a great service to every section of the society with full commitment for social banking.

After serious deliberations it was decided that the following issues should be pursued on a high priority basis:

1. Pension Updation
2. Improvement in Family Pension
3. Rationalisation of Medical Insurance Scheme
4. Resignees case for 2nd option for Pension option
5. Reckoning of Special Allowance for terminal benefits.

The house decided that CBPRO should continue to approach all the concerned authorities to find an early solution to the above issues. As far as possible CBPRO should enter into dialogue with all the relevant authorities impressing upon them that they should not force the aged Retirees to approach Courts every time instead of respecting and honouring the Senior Citizen Litigation Policy of the Government while considering the issues of the Retirees.

The house also deliberated on the issue of going for some action programmes and after considering various options, it was decided to start **an agitation by forming HUMAN CHAINS** in all important cities/ State Capitals. It was also decided to have a **March to Parliament, a March to Prime Minister House** after 3-4 months if the above mentioned important issues remain unresolved. **We sincerely wish and hope that the above action programmes will be made a grand success with the participation of all the organisations of the Retirees in the Banking Industry.** The CBPRO will announce the dates of such action programmes when the same are finalised.

We assure our Constituents and the Retiree Comrades that we shall leave no stone unturned on our part to effectively pursue the above issues at various levels.

With warm regards,

Yours Comradely,

Sd/-
A.Ramesh Babu **K.V.Acharya**
Joint Conveners

Sd/-

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