

SYNDICATE BANK PENSIONERS & RETIREES ASSOCIATION (REGD.)

(Affiliated to AIBPARC, a wing of AIBOC)

CENTRAL OFFICE

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Cir.No.18/2017

(PLEASE CIRCULATE TO ALL MEMBERS/ RETIREES)

Date: 12/11/2017

Dear Comrades,

11TH CC MEETING HELD AT BENGALURU

The 11th meeting of Central Committee of SBPRA was held at Bengaluru on 5.11.2017. All the issues confronting bank retirees were discussed and deliberated thoroughly. The meeting also reviewed the activities of the organization during the intervening period at industry level as well as Bank level which interalia included the following:

Initiating the proceedings Com. R. K. Sharma, President expressed happiness and congratulated one and all for achieving yet another mile stone in membership mobilization and crossing 8000 mark. He exhorted the committee members to strive to achieve 10000-mark by next General Body meeting of the Association. He also briefed the house on various organisational activities including that of CBPRO and meetings of AIBPARC at New Delhi.

Thereafter General Secretary took up the agenda. At the outset he recapitulated all the pending issues of bank retirees viz Updation of pension; Uniform DA neutralization; Improvement in Family pension; Improvement in health insurance scheme - premium to be met by the bank on the same lines as working staff; Pension to all the left over retirees; Pension on Spl Allowance; Elimination of anomalies and improvement in other retiral benefits on the lines of Govt. /RBI etc.

Industry level developments:

Developments in the ongoing Wage Revision Talks between IBA and UFBU Vis a Vis Retirees issues were discussed. UFBU has taken up retirees issues earnestly. IBAs response to retirees' issues appears to be positive when compared to earlier one that they do not want to discuss retirees' issues as there was no mandate from banks. On UFBU demands pertaining to retirees viz.100% DA, pension Updation, improvement in Family Pension, etc. the IBA reportedly responded that Issues like 100% DA and Updation are subjudice due to litigation and on improvement in Family Pension, the cost aspect was being worked out. To this UFBU has issued a counter to IBA stating that "On pension related issues, none of the Unions under UFBU have resorted to litigation". From all these proceedings our Central Committee observed a perceptible welcome change in the scenario paving way for early resolution of issues. More over meetings of CBPRO with IBA officials and various Communications sent to them have a salutary effect on the wage talks and retirees' issues. It's hoped that retirees' expectations will not be belied this time. Thereafter the house was appraised of latest position in court cases. In 100% DA case in Supreme Court the arguments were well conducted and coordinated by retiree organisations. Com. KV Acharya, President AIBPARC and Joint Convenor CBPRO has meticulously followed up with Advocates and attended the hearing in Supreme Court. Judgement was reserved and

expected to be delivered any time. House was apprised about the outcome of visits of CBPRO leadership to DFS: MOF GoI regularly and meetings with Addl Secretary (Banking) Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu in pursuit of pending issues. The said efforts will certainly contribute a lot in resolving pending issues.

Bank level developments:

The details of various visits to Corporate Office by our representatives were placed before the house. On 22.5.2017 President Com. RK Sharma, Secretary Com. K. Suresh Babu, Vice President Com. SB Sai Prakash and other office bearers called on GM (HR), GM (Plg) and other Executives. Various issues including holding of Joint Meeting were taken up. During the visit our team felicitated Sri K T Rai GM (Mktg) on the eve of his superannuation. On 4.11.2017 a team lead by General Secretary Com. C Gangadhar Yadav, which included Vice Presidents Com. Rajkumar, A Venkatesan, SB Sai Prakash, Joint Secretary Com HAN Reddy, Zonal Secretary KR Ramappa and CC members KKrishnamurthy and SR Rajashekar called on GM (HR) and GM (Plg). Pending issues were discussed with GM (HR). His response on most of the issues was positive. On our pending demand for elimination of discrimination by grant of Annual Medial Aid of Rs 3000/- to the VRS optees on attaining age of superannuation he informed that steps for sanction were already initiated. On the other demand of reimbursement of premium on health insurance policy he informed that steps were being taken to reimburse an amount equivalent to Synd arogya premium reimbursement i.e. up to Rs1000/-each. We are expecting favourable decisions at any moment. On the issue of payment of pension on last working day he informed that suitable steps are already taken. On our demand of starting help desk for IBA health insurance scheme at all ROs he informed that to begin with they will start a dedicated Help Desk at Corporate Office immediately and it will be assessed for further requirement. The team also met the new ED Sri S. Krishnan and greeted him on his assuming charge. On 7.11.2017, GS and President along with CC member Com. Rajaram Adige and Bengaluru team called on MD&CEO. The meeting was cordial. The team apprised him about the need to convene regular bilateral meetings with retirees to redress grievances as per IBA guidelines and the directions given by the Board of Directors of the Ban and requested him to expedite holding of next joint meeting with SBPRA. He assured to look into the matter and also discuss with ED. We hope things will improve and management will be more considerate to retirees' issues in the days to come.

Health Insurance matters:

Matters related to IBA Health Insurance policy, difficulties faced in settlement of claims, exercising renewal option and various other issues were discussed. Association has made a lot of efforts with HO in getting the mode of exercising renewal option simplified and getting DL sanctioned to meet premium. Efforts of Central Office and Secretary Com. K Suresh Babu in the matter of communicating and assisting the members in exercising renewal options and in taking up unsettled claims with HO: SWD was placed on record. The follow up work done by Com. Sai Prakash Vice President with TPA at Bengaluru for settlement of pending claims and the visits of Com. K S Tantry to HO: SWD in the same context were commended. Also, the initiatives taken by Com. S.A. Manjrekar, General Secretary SBOA in getting DL at MCLR interest; conducting workshop on insurance matters; and getting the super top policy materialized were appreciated. During the discussion on super top up policy the house was of the opinion that Super Top policy of UIICO having tie-up with Bank was more preferable due to inbuilt accountability and hassle-free administration than the one offered by NIICO which was fraught with many pitfalls. The house expressed concern about burden of insurance premium increasing year after year. In this

regard continued efforts of CBPRO to convince Govt. and IBA to advise banks to meet insurance premium were worthy of noting. It was felt that partial reimbursement of Rs1000/- offered by GM (HR) towards premium was not up to the expectation and needed further improvement. Govt. imposing GST on health insurance premium for senior citizen was criticized. It was hoped that effort of CBPRO with MOF: GoI for waiver of GST will yield result. Regarding Help Desks it was decided to demand for opening of the same at all ROs once the proposed Help Desk at Corporate Office was made operational. There was a demand for changing of TPA in view of delays and deficiencies reported in settlement of claims. Com. Sanjay Manjrekar explained that the idea may not be wise as they were not sure of quality of service given by other TPAs. Now that contact and communication with present TPA have been established after long, the retirees cannot afford another trial and error exercise. After thread bear discussion and assessing pros and cons it was decided that there was no need for such demand for the time being.

Organisational matters:

It was a matter of great pride and joy for all of us that SBPRA membership has crossed 8000 mark. Four zones viz Delhi, Udipi, Hyderabad and Chennai, have crossed 1000mark each and others are catching up. The house noted the welcome impact on organisational functioning in Delhi, UP, Chennai and Bengaluru zones subsequent upon induction of five CC members into the committee. Liaison with Corporate Office has also vastly improved. In order to enlighten our huge and ever increasing rank and file about various organisational activities it was felt necessary and decided to hold local meetings in all Regions, at least once in ensuing six months. The matter of Re-organisation of Banks Zones and elimination of Ahmedabad and Trivandrum zones in bank administrative set up and its impact on our organisational zonal set up was discussed. After a thorough deliberation and keeping in view the organisational need of effective functioning it was decided that our organisation should continue with the existing system. Therefore SBPRA zones of Ahmedabad and Trivandrum will continue without any change. The jurisdiction of Ahmedabad will be the states of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and that of Trivandrum will be the state of Kerala. Service to the members in the overlapping Regions will be rendered by their respective organisational Zones with the help of their counterparts in Mumbai and Chennai. Reports on Organisational initiatives and meetings held in various zones were presented. Information on quarterly customers' service committee meetings held at all ROs of bank and details of participation by our representatives were furnished. Individual grievances of members were referred and steps needed to resolve were noted for follow-up. Various other decisions were taken encompassing implementation of AIBPARC/CBPRO programmes; strategic approach to the bank level issues; and membership growth and awareness programs.

AIBPARC Meetings:

There was a discussion on periodical meetings held by AIBPARC at all state and districts involving affiliate organisations of retirees of all banks. The house was briefed on decisions taken in the meetings on plan of action and implementation of various programmes in pursuit of retirees' issues with IBA and Govt and coordination with CBPRO. The details of Charter of Demands on retirees' issues submitted to managements, UFBU and IBA for consideration during the ongoing Wage Revision Talks were pondered over. The house briefed on the proceedings in Governing council meeting of AIBPARC held at Bengaluru on 21.5.2017 which was attended by Com. D S Punja chairman, RK Sharma President, K Suresh Babu Secretary, SB Sai Prakash, Vice President and other office bearers of Bengaluru and MC Meeting (Extended) held at Delhi

on 11.10.2017 participated by Com R K Sharma and Com Suresh Rustagi. AIBPARC Karnataka state conference was held on 22.5.2017 in a grand manner. Com. SB Sai Prakash and K. Krishnamurthy were elected as Vice President and Asst. Secretary respectively. Delhi State Unit conference of AIBPARC was held on 10.10.2017 successfully. Comrades R K Sharma, Com Gopendra Sharma and Com Suresh Rustagi were elected as Chairman, Vice President and Joint Secretary. Similarly UP State Unit AIBPARC meeting was held on 9th December 2016 at Lucknow and our Com Rakesh Dua was elected as Vice-President. The house congratulated all the newly elected office bearers and wished them best of luck.

Support of SBOA:

Com. Sanjay A Manjrekar, General Secretary of SBOA was present in the meeting. While speaking on support to retirees he said some golden words viz. “when we take up retirees issues we think that we are doing so for ourselves as we too are going to retire eventually and will be beneficiaries thereof”. He informed the house about their efforts in getting interest rate reduction to MCLR on DL for insurance premium. He spoke on staff welfare fund allocation. As per Khandelwal Committee recommendations 50% of fund should be allocated for working staff, 25% to retired staff and balance 25% to be allocated at the discretion of Board. SBOA has taken a stand that the said balance 25% also may also be utilized for retirees. Regarding defence of Charge sheets issued under Pension Regulations he assured to entrust the job to suitable office bearers of SBOA. The issue of Income Tax levied on foreign tour LTC cases in Bengaluru came up for discussion. Efforts made by SBOA were explained. He assured that all assistance will be extended to the aggrieved retirees. He offered and suggested to utilize SBOA new office premises at Bengaluru in the building of GM (marketing) KG Road for SBPRA activities and meetings. Speaking on pension Fund he informed that he did not notice any deviations/discrepancies in our Bank and assured to find out details of amount lying in this head of account. He assured all out support to retirees.

Accounts:

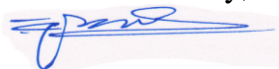
Financial statements and accounts for the period under review were presented to the house and approved. General Secretary emphasized on need of austerity in expenditure and assured that strict control over finances of the Association will continue to be exercised. He once again reiterated that air fare will not be paid for any travel on organisational work and that in case of air travel undertaken by any one, reimbursement will be restricted to notional train fare. It was decided to clear arrears of annual subscription payable to AIBPARC immediately.

Co-options:

Vacancies in Chennai Zonal committee were filled in by co-opting – 1.Com. S. Chandrasekaran, Chennai as Regional Secretary Chennai Region -II (New Region) and 2.Com. M. Sadasivam, Coimbatore and 3.Com. R. Gajendran, Ooty Nilgiris as Zonal Council Member. We congratulate all the above newly co-opted office bearers and wish them all the best.

With greetings

Yours comradely,



C Gangadhar Yadav

GENERAL SECRETARY

SBPRA - ZINDABAD
AIBPRC - ZINDABAD
CBPRO - ZINDABAD