

All India Bank Retirees Federation

(A.I.B.R.F.)

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Date: 28th May 2011

Vice President:

N. S. R. Bao D. A. Masdekar B. Ramji M. N. Parikh M. K. Jha I. A. Padhya

Ref. No. 2011/191

The office bearers/Central Committee Members

AIBRE

Dear Sir.

Re: Grievances of Bank Retirees.

Further to our circular No. 2011/190 dated 25th May 2011 advising you about participation of AIBRF representatives in U.F.B.U. convention at New Delhi on 20 May 2011 and requesting U.F.B.U. convention to include retirees issues also in their forth coming agitational programme.

2. We are now happy to advise you that one of the important constituents of U.F.B.U., All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBA) has written letter No. AIBEA/GS/2011/52 dated 25th May 2011 to the finance minister Shri Pranab Mukerjee on retirees demands exclusively. Copy of the letter is enclosed for your information. We are grateful to AIBEA and its General Secretary Shri CH Venletachalam for writing this letter highlighting all pending demands of retirees comprehensively. We also find that another important constituents of U.F.B.U., AIBOC is also raising retirees issues at different level for resolution from time to time.

After our historical central committee meeting at Lucknow on 27th and 3. 28th July 2010 wherein we had drawn 3 point action plan to achieve our pending demands. As you know that the eafter we have taken several steps to implement the action plan. Some of the important steps taken are as under:

- (a) AIBRF delegation met to U.F.B.U. convener Venkatachalam at Indore on 08.08.2010 and submitted memorandum on retirees issues.
- (b) On the basis of initiatives taken by us, U.F.B.U. invited AIBRF representative in their meeting held at Mumbai on 07.10.10



Joint Gen. Secy. :

R. S. Desai D. P. Gupta



Secretary:

Kalyan Sengupta C. Gopinath Nair



Treasurer: M.S. Chourey



Orgn. Secretary:

V.K.M. Verma P.S.L.M. Hargopal K.M. Gujrati B.G. Raithatha D. Bhattacharva

wherein the General Secretary, Shri S.C. Jain gave detailed presentation on retiree issues and sought U.F.B.U. support for them. U.F.B.U. leaders present in the meeting assured to take steps in this direction.

- (c) Subsequently, in consultation with U.F.B.U. leaders we had drawn agitational programme to draw attention of IBA/Govt. on our matters. As you know, under the first phase of the programme we have submitted memorandum 46 different authorities including 6 Central Ministers, 18 Members of Parliament and 12 chairmen of banks. We are in the process of drawing second phase of the programme like writing of post cards to FM etc.
- 4. It may be seen that various organizational steps taken by AIBRF after Lucknow CCM has been quite effective and has been able to create visibility and awareness among authorities who matter. Examples are that U.F.B.U. have been seriously discussing retiree issues and have been representing to Govt. for their solution, members of parliament forwarding our memorandum to FM, Star-questions being raised in the parliament etc.
 - 5. We now feel that our efforts have brought our issues in particular 100% DA neutralization, improvement in ex-gratia payment to pre-1986 retirees etc. close to solution. It could be possible because of continuous efforts made by all of you. Our efforts at all level have to continue till we achieve final success.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully



ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

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AIBEA/GS/2011/52

25th May, 2011

To Shri. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Government of India, North Block, New Delhi

Dear Sir,

Reg: Grievances of Bank Retires

The All India Bank Retirees Federation and United Forum of Bank Retirees Organisation have been representing to the Government and Indian Banks Association to redress some of their genuine grievances and demands but with no effect so far. You are well aware that the Pension Scheme evolved and introduced in the Banks is exactly on the lines of Central Government Pension Scheme and hence some of the improvements that have been incorporated in the Government Pension Scheme consequent to the 6th Pay Commission need to be extended to the bank retirees also. The recent extension of one more option to join the Pension Scheme has brought great relief to number of retired employees and officers who are today covered by the Pension Scheme and we are thankful to the Government for the same.

But the following issues of the bank retirees deserve the special attention of the Government and your sympathetic consideration.

 For the Government employees, on occasions of salary revision, pension revision is also given and accordingly their pension is updated. But in the case of bank retirees, the Pension remains static as sanctioned at the time of their retirement and does not undergo any change thereafter. The periodical updation of pension along with salary revision of in-service employees is very genuine and fair expectation, especially when the same is available to the Government employees.

- 2. Since their pension is fixed based on their pay at the time of their retirement, there are currently 5 different price index (600, 1148, 1684, 2288 & 2836) on which DA is paid to the retirees depending upon their period of retirement i.e. 1-1-86 to 31-10-92, 1-11-92 to 31-3-98, 1-4-98 to 31-10-2002, 1-11-2002 to 31-10-2007 and from 1-11-2007 onwards. Their pension needs to be adjusted and upgraded to a common price index by merging the DA upto that level. This will bring in uniformity of indexing the Pension of the retirees.
- 3. In payment of DA, after introduction of 100% neutralization against price rise from 1.11-2002, those who have retired after this date are being given 100% neutralization for price rise while the past retirees continue to be paid DA on a tapering basis with 4 slab formula of the earlier system. There is a genuine need to extend 100% DA neutralization to all the retirees atleast from a prospective date.
- While the in-service employees get DA variation on quarterly basis, for retirees, DA on Pension is paid on half yearly basis. This needs to be changed to quarterly basis for retirees also.
- 5. Under the 6th Pay Commission Report, there are improvements in the rate of pension for very aged senior citizens, in the commutation of pension, eligibility service to get full pension, etc for the Government pensioners and these need to be extended to the bank retirees too.
- It is also experienced that the quantum of Family Pension is very inadequate and this requires a sympathetic approach from the Government to revise the same suitably.
- 7. Since the Pension Scheme was introduced in the Banks from 1.1.1986, the pre-1986 retirees are being given a Ex Gratia of Rs.300 per month + DA and their widows are being paid a fixed lumpsum Ex Gratia of Rs.1000 per month. These pre-1986 retirees are aged 85 years and above and are very few in number, may be around 6000 persons in the entire banking sector. Considering their age, ill-health, etc. the Government should kindly increase the Ex Gratia amount.

- 8. There are number of grievances of the retirees at the Bank Level regarding delay in sanction of Pension, delay in disbursements, etc. and hence Government / IBA should give proper guidelines to all Banks to put in place a regulated mechanism to redress these grievances. This will help in avoiding / reducing litigations, etc. on the part of the retirees.
- 9. Government has already advised the Banks to set apart a portion of the amount allocated for Staff Welfare from the Net Profit of the Banks towards benefitting the retirees. Still it is not being implemented properly. Hence Government may consider advising the Banks to set apart an uniform percentage of funds from out of the profits towards Welfare Schemes for the retirees.
- 10. The in-service employees are entitled to reimbursement of medical expenses on occasions of hospitalisation but after retirement, the retirees are not covered by such facilities. In the context of ever increasing cost of medical treatment, retirees become extremely vulnerable when they fall ill and hence some uniform medical expenses reimbursement scheme needs to be made available to them.

These are some of the important grievances and demands of the bank retirees. We request you to take a positive view of their grievances and advise necessary steps to be taken by the Government / IBA in this regard.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

C.H.VENKATACHALAM GENERAL SECRETARY

Copy to:Chairman,
Indian Banks Association,
Mumbai.