

ALL INDIA BANK RETIREES' FEDERATION (REGD.)

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6th Conference Slogan- Pension Updation is Right of Bank Retirees

Ref: 2023/ 023

22.03.2023

Shri Sanjeev K. Bandlish General Secretary, NCBE Shri C.H. Venkatachalam General Secretary, AIBEA Shri Dilip Kumar Saha Executive President, AIBOC

UFBU Leaders & Members of the Committee constituted by IBA on Group Medical Insurance Scheme for Employees & Retirees (GMIS)

Dear Comrades,

Re: Group Medical Insurance Scheme for Retirees Re: AIBRF Submissions

All India Bank Retirees' Federation (AIBRF), being largest and oldest organization of bank retirees at the apex level with membership of more than 2.6 lakhs, has been representing and pursuing the issues related to GMIS before IBA, Government and UFBU leadership for last 4/ 5 years to make the policy affordable for all section of retirees in view of unprecedented increase in premium rates on retiree policy.

2. In the representations submitted, AIBRF made several constructive suggestions to reduce premium rates which included some dilution in terms and conditions on claim benefits like reduction in room rent entitlement, capping on specified surgeries along with reduction in GST Rates on premium, uniform subsidy and introduction of Base Policy for all retirees.

3. However. best of Organizational efforts of AIBRF did not yield desire results and premium rates for retirees continued to increase year after year during last 5 years at the unprecedented rates making health insurance policy unaffordable for large section of retirees. It is estimated that about 3 lakhs retirees (excluding SBI) are out of the scheme due to affordability reason though health insurance is necessity for them.

4. In view of these continuous adverse development for retirees in the matter and as a matter of commitment, it may be mentioned that AIBRF has recently submitted representation on GMIS to Central Labour Commissioner (Central), New Delhi seeking their intervention in resolution of retiree grievances related to the scheme. We are pleased to inform that CLC was kind enough to convene 4 Joint meetings of representatives from AIBRF, IBA and DFS to discuss and resolve grievances listed in AIBRF representation. In the last Joint Meeting held on 14.03.2023, the following issues were discussed and decided as under

- (a) IBA representative informed during the proceedings and also in writing vide letter No. HR& IR/ GOVT/Q/2022-23 dated 14.03.2023 that Committee of Chief General Manager/ General Managers from member banks, 3 representatives from UFBU and independent expert is being constituted to discuss and decided issues related to GMIS for employees and retirees and to finalize terms and conditions for next renewal.
- (b) It was agreed by IBA representative that representations submitted by AIBRF during 4 Joint Meetings and any further representations giving suggestions on GMIC by AIBRF would be placed before the committee being constituted by IBA on GMIS, discussion and decision.
- (c) It was further agreed that CLC would convene next Joint Meeting after getting outcome of IBA Committee meeting to decide further course of action on AIBRF representation.

5. We understand from IBA Circular No. HR &IR/ OTH/ XIBPS/807 dated 18.03.2023 that you three have been nominated in IBA Committee. You are very important members of the committee representing employees and retirees. We enclose our letter No. 2022/742 dated 22.03.2023 with Annexure addressed to IBA giving various suggestions to bring improvement in GMIS for retirees to make the policy affordable for all section of retirees. On the basis of decision taken in Joint meeting, AIBRF representations will be officially placed for discussion and decision. We seek your valuable support on the suggestions given in our representation which are logical and with sincere intention to make the scheme affordable for all section of retirees.

6. It may be mentioned that AIBRF strongly believes in raising and pursuing retirees' issues in close coordination of UFBU constituents and have been sincerely working on this aspect for last several years. We have been submitting representations on retiree issues to UFBU and its constituents from time to time with the request for meeting / audience with UFBU leadership for better clarity and understanding. However, such meetings have not materialized in the past. We feel such periodical meetings are needed for mutual understanding on retiree issues. It will not be out of place to mention that during Joint meetings convened by CLC, the Presiding Officer expressed desire and need for periodical biliteral discussion on retirees issues between AIBRF and UFBU for resolution of grievances of retirees. Considering the above developments, we would like to have audience with three members from UFBU to explain our view points in the matter and seek your support on them, before IBA Committee meeting is convened. Kindly consider.

With Respectful Regards,

Yours Sincerely

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(S. C. JAIN) GENERAL SECRETARY

C.C. to Other Constituents of UFBU