



ALL INDIA BANK RETIREES' FEDERATION (REGD.)

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Date: 22.03.2026

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Finance Minister
Government of India
New Delhi

Respected Madam,

Re;

: Persistent Denial of Pension Updation to Bank Retirees Despite Sustained Nationwide Democratic Movements – Urgent Intervention Requested.

We write this representation with a **deep sense of anguish, urgency, and continuing disappointment** over the prolonged denial of **pension updation to past retirees in the banking industry**, despite sustained, peaceful, and large-scale democratic efforts undertaken by AIBRF over the last decade.

Numerous representations submitted earlier to your good office, the Department of Financial Services, Reserve Bank of India, and Indian Banks' Association have unfortunately not resulted in any concrete resolution.

1. Background – A Welfare Scheme Reduced to Inequity

The **Bank Pension Regulations, 1995**, introduced w.e.f. 01.01.1986, were conceived as a **social security measure** on the lines of Government and RBI pension schemes.

However, over **31 years and seven Bipartite Settlements**, pension updation has been selectively applied only to serving employees and recent retirees, leaving **past retirees completely excluded**, thereby defeating the very objective of the scheme.

2. Sustained Nationwide Democratic Struggle by AIBRF

It is important to place on record that the demand for pension updation is **not recent, nor sporadic**, but has been pursued through consistent, large-scale, and peaceful democratic means:

- **2014** – Massive centralized Dharna at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, attended by **over 6000 retirees** from across the country
- **2017** – Another centralized Dharna at Jantar Mantar with participation of **over 7500 retirees nationwide**
- **Memorandum Campaign** – Representations submitted to **more than 350 Members of Parliament** over the last 7 years
- **PMO Outreach** – Over **50,000 online memoranda** submitted to the Prime Minister's Office
- **Parliamentary Support** – **6 Union Ministers and around 90 MPs** have recommended pension updation and written to your good office
- **Postcard Campaign (2016)** – More than **3 lakh postcards** sent to the PMO by retirees across the country
- **Ongoing Agitation (2024–2026):**
 - **Phase I:** September 2024 – March 2025
 - **Phase II:** Continuing since November 2025

Despite this **unprecedented, sustained, and democratic mobilization by senior citizens**, the issue remains unresolved, which has caused **deep frustration and erosion of faith**.

3. Legal Position – Clear Constitutional Violation

The denial of pension updation:

- Violates **Article 14** – Equality before law
- Violates **Article 21** – Right to live with dignity

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in
D.S. Nakara v. Union of India

has clearly held that pensioners form a **homogeneous class**, and discrimination based on date of retirement is unconstitutional.

The continued reliance on the plea that “**there is no specific provision**” is **legally untenable** and contrary to the spirit of welfare legislation.

4. Discriminatory Treatment vis-à-vis RBI & Government Pensioners

While pensioners of the Government and the Reserve Bank of India are granted **periodical updation**, bank retirees—despite identical framework—are denied the same benefit.

This constitutes **arbitrary and hostile discrimination**.

5. Financial Position – No Justifiable Constraint

- Pension corpus exceeds **₹3.7 lakh crores**
- Adequate provisions made under superannuation in successive settlements
- Pensioner population is **declining steadily**, reducing long-term liability

Thus, the denial reflects **policy inaction rather than financial incapacity**.

It is respectfully submitted that even on a conservative and indicative basis, the financial implication of pension updation is estimated at **around ₹20,000–30,000 crore as a one-time impact**. This amount constitutes less than 10% of the total pension corpus of Public Sector Banks, which is presently in the range of ₹3.7 lakh crore. Given the strong and growing financial position of banks, such an expenditure is clearly manageable and can be comfortably absorbed over a period of 2–3 years through phased provisioning. Therefore, the plea of financial constraint does not stand to reason and cannot be a valid ground for denying pension updation to deserving retirees.

6. Humanitarian Crisis – A Matter of Grave Concern

- Over **1 lakh pensioners have passed away since 2019**, awaiting justice
- Pensioners above **75 years** are facing severe financial distress
- Continuous erosion of pension value due to inflation

This situation amounts to a **serious compromise of dignity and human rights of senior citizens**.

7. Growing Discontent Among Retirees

Bank retirees, who played a critical role in strengthening India's banking system and contributing to national economic growth, now feel:

- **Ignored and marginalized**
- Subjected to **systemic injustice**
- Deeply **hurt and humiliated**

8. Our Demand

AIBRF firmly demands:

1. **Immediate and uniform pension updation for all past retirees**
2. Parity with Government and RBI pension schemes
3. Time-bound directive to Indian Banks' Association to implement updation

9. Escalation

In the absence of immediate action, AIBRF will be compelled to:

- Intensify nationwide agitation
- Expand parliamentary and public engagement

Conclusion

Madam, this issue is no longer administrative—it is a **test of constitutional fairness, social justice, and governmental sensitivity towards senior citizens.**

We urge your immediate and decisive intervention to **resolve this long-pending injustice before it is too late for thousands more pensioners.**

With Respectful Regards,

Yours Sincerely,



(S. C. JAIN)
GENERAL SECRETARY

c.c. to

- 1. The Secretary, Department of Financial Services, New Delhi**
- 2. The Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai**
- 3. The Chairman, Indian Banks' Association, Mumbai**
- 4. The Chief Executives, Indian Banks Association, Mumbai**
- 5. The Senior Advisor (HR), Indian Banks' Association, Mumbai**
- 6. The General Secretaries, AIBEA, AIBOC, AIBOA, BEFI, INBOC, INBEFE, NOBOW, NOBRO**