

(For circulation among members of the Governing Council and Secretaries of State Units of AIBPARC)

Dear Comrade,

Com V.M. Devi is no more with us.

We are extremely sorry to inform you that on 15th of February 2015, Com. V.M. Devi of Federation of Bank of India Officers' Association, Gujrat, left all of us behind. He was 94. Way back in December, 1963, a few brave officers, numbering around 22, assembled at dusk at Sardarbaug, Ahmedabad under the leadership of Com. V.M. Devi, an officer of Bank of India. They decided to form an Officers' Association to fight against abject exploitation and tyranny unleashed against the Bank officers. Comrades, we are talking of a period of almost 52 years back. The banks were in the private sector. Today's generation would not be able to appreciate the conditions prevailing at that point of time. A trade union of bank officers could not be imagined. Many wielding powers and those in the corridors of power expectedly frowned!! Those in the ranks who sought to be united under the banner of a trade union took a while to shed their reservation and reconciled with the new concept. However, the attempt was unique and perhaps, the first one to organise the supervisory cadre not only in Banking Industry but also elsewhere in the country. Gujrat unit of Bank of India Officers' Association was thus born. Soon thereafter, the news spread to other centres and in quick succession units were formed at Kanpur, Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and at Madras paving the way in formation of a Federation a year later. Almost simultaneously fire was spread in quick succession in other banks also. Today, we all take pride in the consolidation of bank officers' movement which is considered as a part and parcel of the working class movement of our country. This consolidation has not come so easily. It is through 5 decades of sacrifice and toil and long struggle, today's edifice has been brought about. We are grateful to Com. V.M. Devi who founded the movement in his own way and we enjoy what it is today.

We convey our heartfelt gratitude to Com. Devi and his colleagues for all that they had done for all of us. Long live Com. Devi. Long live his tribe. May his soul rest in abiding peace.

With warm greetings,

(S. R. SEN GUPTA)

GENERAL SECRETARY