



ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS' & RETIREES' CONFEDERATION

(A.I.B.P.A.R.C.)

C/O BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(EASTERN INDIA BRANCHES)

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(For circulation among all the members of the Managing Committee as well as the Governing Council of AIBPARC, Special Invitees, State Secretaries and Advisors of AIBPARC.)

Dear Comrade,

SUB : “SANTI DA” PASSES AWAY INTO THE REALM OF SILENCE AND PEACE

With heavy heart, we convey to all our members, leaders, activists and veterans that Com. S.R. Sengupta, General Secretary, AIBPARC, breathed his last in the early morning of 14th January, 2018. He left behind him his bereaved family, countless followers and admirers, an eventful history of sacrifice and dedication, hundreds of fond remembrances and a deep void which is not easy to fill up.

Universally known and addressed as “Santi Da”, Com. S.R. Sengupta scaled all the heights of trade union movement in the banking industry. We can safely describe him as a doyen of the movement, a champion of the working class in recent times, a man with simple living and high thinking, lifelong crusader against exploitation, a persuasive orator, a skillful negotiator and a relentless fighter for the betterment of the community.

Before entering into the golden chapter of History, Com. Sengupta created one history after another during his lifetime. He was the General Secretary of Federation of Bank of India Officers' Associations for almost quarter of a century. He was the ever-agile Vice President of AICOBOO for a pretty long time. He was the founder President of AIBOC and then General Secretary of the same organisation for quite a number of years. He was one of the principal architects of UFBU. At the time of formation of AIBOC, a value-based trade union for bank officers in India, the names of Com. S.R. Sengupta and Com. R.N. Godbole had been familiarized in the household of bankmen. Both the leaders visited every district headquarter of the country like whirlwind to lay the foundation of an organisation which would pass the test of time and be the champion of the movement in the industry.

Com. S.R. Sengupta had enormous contributions in the orchestration of the movement of the supervisory cadre of banking industry with the main stream movement of the working class in India. His lifelong struggle was to protect the public sector character of the banks and

he maintained constant liaison with Members of the Parliament of different political parties and made them convinced about the salutary role of the PSBs in the interest of the country's economy. Such efforts paid rich dividends when the neo-liberal economy started surfacing its ugly head in the early part of nineties.

When AIBPARC as an organisation of pensioners and retirees was sponsored by AIBOC, a new horizon opened up. Thousands of retirees gathered under the banner of the new organisation and consolidated their position in the industry. In the first general body meeting held in Delhi, Com. S.R. Sengupta was elected as the General Secretary of AIBPARC. In the 2nd General Body held in Kolkata, he was also the unanimous choice for the post of General Secretary which position he held till he breathed his last. He was the symbol of courage, confidence and sacrifice. Retirees throughout the country under his leadership vociferously pronounced their deprivations and exerted pressure on IBA, Govt. of India and the nation. Com S.R. Sengupta even in his failing health was the guide, the leader and the teacher. His lesson was : consolidate, fight and achieve.

Com. S.R. Sengupta was a broad-minded leader who believed in united struggle. He was one of the principal driving forces behind the formation of CBPRO, a consolidation of different organisations of retirees in the banking industry. He believed that total unity could not be achieved overnight. It is an on-going process which is to be nourished with care to achieve the ultimate goal of creation of a joint platform which could be shared by all similarly placed organisations of the country. His total faith in joint movement would be further exemplified by the creation of an organisation named FUTURE immediately after his retirement from bank's service. The word stands for Foundation of United Trade Union Research and Education.

Comrades, the loss is heart-breaking and the void is enormous. Still we must not forget that we carry the legacy of a fighting spirit and we shall continue to do the same. The best way to show our regards, love and admiration for the departed leader is to adhere to the principles he fought for. As for ourselves, all of us should take a vow that we shall be working extra hours and we shall be walking extra miles to be worthy of being his true successors.

Long Live Com. S.R. Sengupta.

(K. V. ACHARYA)
PRESIDENT

(S. SARKAR)
ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY