



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 members of the governing council of AIBPARC,
State Secretaries, Special Invitees and Advisors.)

Dear Comrade,

Sub : Updates on the issues affecting Bank retirees.

We believe that most of our members have already participated in the festival of democracy of the largest democratic country of the world and some others will be doing the same in the next few days. The entire country is eagerly looking forward to the formation of the new government at the centre. At this juncture, no forward movement of any issue, whatsoever, can be reasonably expected. We shall have to wait for at least a fortnight till formation of the new government.

This is a time for brainstorming, self equipment by way of collection of data and information, study of legal and financial implications of all the issues affecting retirees and meeting leaders of various organisations of serving as well as retirees' organisations to explore the possibilities of larger consolidation and coordination. Comrades, we are really engaged in this process in a very sincere way.

We are informing hereunder some such developments :

1. Meeting of CBPRO with AIBRF at Delhi on 3rd May, 2019.

The leaders of AIBRF requested the leaders of CBPRO to have a meeting with them after the meeting of their leaders being over on the previous day. CBPRO accepted the invitation and leaders of various components of CBPRO attended the meeting. AIBPARC was represented by the President, General Secretary and several other senior office bearers stationed at Delhi. SBIPA and RNBOC were also represented by their senior leaders.

In an hour long discussion, CBPRO and AIBRF exchanged the views of each organisation on very important issues like updation of pension and group medical insurance scheme. Both the organisations noted with satisfaction the coordinated functioning of both the organisations in the matter of speaking in the same voice on retirees' issues to government and IBA. It was also observed that the united agitational programme got a tremendous success in different parts of the country. There has been an emergence of a new hope in the minds of the retirees and both the organisations should make utmost effort to be worthy of it.

It was also decided that in the early part of June, 2019, the Joint Convenors of CBPRO and General Secretary of AIBRF would meet and discuss the future plan of action including approach to government and IBA jointly, meeting the leaders of UFBU and have thorough discussion with them and also ponder over the issue of calling any demonstrative actions in case of necessity.

2. Inclusion of Dearness Allowance at the time of calculation of gratuity.

a) Single bench of Hon'ble justice Sujoy Paul of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh (seat at Jabalpur) at WP 9182/2017 delivered the following judgement on 06.09.2018 : "In the considered opinion of this court, the respondents have erred in not including DA while calculating gratuity under the Regulations. Thus, respondents are directed to include DA and

recalculate gratuity of the pensioners and pay the difference arising thereto to the petitioners within 60 days from the date of communication of this order”.

- b) The above order of the Single bench was challenged by the management of the bank in the division bench of the same High Court and the authorities made an appeal to set aside the order of the single bench passed on 06.09.2018 in the WP no. 9182/2017. The learned division bench in the concluding paragraph of the verdict made the following observation :
“We do not find any illegality in the impugned order passed by the learned single bench warranting any interference in these intra-court appeals. Accordingly the writ appeals deserve and are hereby dismissed”.
- c) The management of the bank being aggrieved with the decision of the Division Bench of the High Court filed a special writ petition at the Supreme Court. The apex court heard the petition on 7th May, 2019 and passed the following orders : “No case is made out to interfere with the impugned order passed by the High Court. The special leave petitions are accordingly dismissed.”

From a study of the above noted developments, we feel that this verdict of the apex court is definitely a forward movement for the retirees. Although this is a direction passed on the Gramin Bank of a particular state, we must not forget that each RRB is sponsored by a public sector bank and pension regulation has already been implemented in all RRBs of the country. Although the single bench has passed the order for extension of the benefit to the petitioners only, we believe that the benefit will be extended to all similarly placed retirees working in RRBs and all other banks which are covered under bipartite settlements. We stick to our long standing demand that IBA/Government should follow an honest litigation policy and should not force similarly placed retirees to spend money and time for extension of the same benefit to them. The copy of orders has already reached the authorities who mean power. They are in the process of studying the same. We shall be formally taking up the issue within next few days and till then our leaders have been and will be in touch with all concerned.

3. The affiliates are to communicate names of EC members without any loss of time :

As requested by us in earlier circular, most of our affiliates have forwarded the names of EC members from their organisations. Still a few are there who have not officially forwarded the names of EC members from their organisations. This is an abject necessity. Affiliates who have not yet done so may please act fast. Until the list is complete, we are not in a position to issue the circular. We also draw the attention of our affiliates to another circular where we informed all concerned that for updation of our website, we require latest position of names of office bearers from each organisation with their residential address, contact no. and email ID. Most of the affiliates have complied with the same but a few are still left out. Our appeal to each one is for an urgent compliance.

4. Subscription – an issue which is last but not the least :

As our fund position has sufficiently depleted after the holding of the 3rd Triennial General Body Conference, affiliates who are still at defaults are requested to pay the subscription for the financial year 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2020 as on the membership position of 31.03.2019 at the rate of Rs.20/- per member per year.

With best wishes,

(SUPRITA SARKAR)
GENERAL SECRETARY