



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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Sub : The year 2016 departs in despair for the retirees of the bank, the New Year 2017 is hailed it with promises and optimism.

Dear Friends,

One eventful year has passed. The time has not been very happy for the country and the citizens. The tensed situation prevailing in Indo-Pak borders, the ugly dance of terrorism throughout the world, unexpected turn of events in international politics, suffering of the working class for joblessness, retrenchment and lack of security of service, impounding of higher denomination notes without proper backup of supply and technological upgradation have definitely brought a situation in our life which cannot be called tranquil and peaceful.

The position of banks with which our fate is interwoven for decades is not very healthy. Sluggish economy has brought lot of stress and strain on the Advance portfolio and the mounting figures of NPA have been the real cause of concern. Government declares policy but its implementation lies on banks. The institutions are virtually reeling to cope with the situation. When the question of profitability comes, everybody forgets conveniently that banks have to discharge many duties and responsibilities with which profit making has nothing to do.

As for the bank retirees, time has been dismal. The barest minimum demands of pension updation, removal of discrimination in payment of DA, improvement of family pension, benefits of medical insurance without cost, one more option of pension for the otherwise eligible ones have not been attended to. The organisation has left no stone unturned to achieve the goal. Regular correspondence followed by meetings has been done with functionaries of IBA, important persons in bureaucracy, political personalities including ministers and components of UFBU. This is interesting to note that nowhere there is any element of total negation but in reality the authorities have virtually negated the demands on different plea which are contradictory to each other. The parties concerned have not taken care of the basic fact that the 'time' factor is really very costly for the bank retirees and something is to be done in haste.

Comrades, frustration and hopelessness are the two greatest enemies of the old age. If you once give in before the two “fatal flaws”, nothing remains in life. Let us not forget the achievements of the retirees who hit the streets of national capital at least on two occasions in past and in thousands to make their voice heard by power that be. If the demand has been given deaf ears to, the failure is not with us but the shame is for them who were supposed to hear and act. The organisation is not sitting idle. It is knocking all possible doors which have some potentiality. Series of organisational programmes have been carried out throughout the country. Submission of memorandum to the Governor, holding of rallies and demonstrations and activation of CBPRO as an apex organisation of like-minded retirees’ organisations are instances in point.

Although it is our experience for past few decades that Bipartite Settlements are signed after more than 2 years from the date on which it falls due, this time Government is reminding the individual banks to take necessary steps so that the process can be completed within the stipulated date. Different components of UFBU are in the process of finalizing the charter of demands. We have noted with pleasure that AIBOC has taken a due note of the aspirations of bank retirees and a separate chapter has been included for us. We have a high hope that the organisations of our serving brethren being enriched by the experiences of the past will do the best possible things to ensure smile in the faces of their older colleagues. We have our appeal to all other organisations of serving people to employ their best possible endeavours to realize the aspirations of the bank retirees.

As for ourselves, the deferred meeting of Governing Council will take place in Kolkata on 19th January, 2017. We shall take stock of the prevailing situation and take a series of programmes to get an honourable deal for the bank retirees. If situation so demands, the declaration of programmes may be done before holding of our meeting to create an additional gap of time so that the retirees stationed in different parts of the country may get some larger time for preparation of their journeys.

Comrades, we do hope that you will remain good at body and mind. These good wishes are not only for you but also for your family members, friends, relatives and colleagues. Please shake off despair like to torn leaves of a tree and welcome the New Year with stubborn optimism.

With best wishes,

GENERAL SECRETARY