

To,
The Secretary,
Department of Financial Services,
Government of India,
Jeevan Deep Building,
10, Parliament Street,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

Re : Issues of Pensioners in the Banking Industry.

Kindly refer to our letters dated September 15 and September 19, 2014 written by our organisation to you. In both the letters, we have conveyed to you the principal issues confronting the pensioners of the Banking Industry and the necessity of meeting the organisations of Retirees to hear their own views from their lips. We also sent several memoranda to Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Finance Minister which in the normal course of business might have drawn your attention too. This is not also out of place to mention here that the demands of Bank Retirees have been formally placed before IBA by United Forum of Bank Unions in the year 2012 and the said body made certain formal dialogue with IBA on some of the issues.

2. We have made various efforts with IBA as well as through you to get it established that the Retirees must have a bilateral forum to be heard. This is painful to note that the most civilized demand of organized life has not received due cognizance on one pretext or the other. Finding no other alternative, we had to rely on correspondence, informal efforts to make our voice heard and holding of programmes of demonstrative nature like "Dharna" at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi. Although there is no reason on our part to doubt the capacity and credibility of the leaders of UFBU in furthering the cause of Retirees, it is really difficult for several lacs of Bank Retirees to believe and appreciate as to why the representative voice of Bank Retirees would not be heard from their own organisations.

3. You might have been aware of the fact that IBA has expressed a hope that they would be able to reach finality in wage revision talks by the first week of February, 2015 and keeping this target in mind, the next round of talks has been fixed to be held on 3rd February, 2015 at Mumbai. You would definitely appreciate that this is the right time/opportunity to think very actively about the barest minimum level of Retirees' aspirations. Although IBA as a professional body of Bankers is the rightful agency to act or to interact, still it is well known to all concerned that IBA has to move within the boundary of counseling chalked out by the department concerned of GOI of which your goodself is the chief.

4. Our principal demands are well known to IBA as well as to Government of India. In other words, the issues are known and the modalities of implementation are also thought upon but what is

left to be done is display of sympathy to the elder citizens of the industry. For your ready reference, a gist of demands are being enumerated hereunder :

- (i) Pension-updation of older Retirees in pursuance of provisions as laid down in Point No. 35.1 of Bank Employees Pension Regulations, 1995
- (ii) Improvement of Family Pension in line with employees of RBI and GOI
- (iii) Removal of discrimination/disparity in payment of DA to pre-01.11.2002 Retirees in line with RBI employees
- (iv) Improved and uniform Medical/Hospitalisation scheme for Bank Retirees
- (v) Giving a fresh opportunity of Pension to Resignees who after rendering eligible number of years of service resigned from Banks because there was no provision of voluntary-retirement in the Officer Service Regulations of some Banks and because there was inordinate delay in between signing of settlement and framing of Regulations
- (vi) Removal of different types of discriminations and deprivations prevailing in Associate Banks and Private Sector Banks
- (vii) Immediate creation of a bipartite forum for the Retirees
- (viii) Other important issues mentioned in the Charter of Demand.

Sir, no doubt, we have vexed you for long. We have no other alternative than to do it. Same is our position with IBA. As former Bankers we have written to the Heads of Bankers (IBA) in similar lines. We are also endorsing copy of this letter to Chairman, IBA. Our reasonable hope is that both the Authorities will make a drastic intervention at the relevant stage and even at the last moment to see that the Retires are not deprived of their rightful shares of the minimum level of dignity they deserve.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,

(S. R. SEN GUPTA)
GENERAL SECRETARY

Cc:
The Chairman,
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World Trade Centre,
6th Floor, Centre I Building,
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Cuff Parade, Mumbai – 400005.