

**ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS' & RETIREES' CONFEDERATION
(A.I.B.P.A.R.C.)
C/O BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (EASTERN INDIA BRANCHES)
BANK OF INDIA, KOLKATA MAIN BRANCH 23A, NETAJI SUBHAS ROAD,
KOLKATA – 700 001**

Mobile : 9830403145, E-mail : aibparc@gmail.com

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CIRCULAR NO. 57/15. 14th December, 2015. (For circulation among all the members of the
Managing Committee as well as the Governing Council of AIBPARC and also Special
Invitees with a request to percolate the contents to the grassroots.)

Dear Comrade,

Bank Pensioners and Retirees create history at Jantar Mantar on 11th December, 2015 – Several Thousand Bank Retirees participate in day-long Dharna and Demonstration at the heart of the Union Capital – leaders of serving organisations, retiree organisations and Central Trade Unions ask Government/IBA to concede the demands – if insensitivity continues, organisations pledge for more intensified actions. Several thousand bank pensioners and retirees thronged Jantar Mantar, New Delhi at 10 a.m. sharp.

The group of volunteers was shouting slogans in favour of the demands of the retirees in different languages. The principal demand of the slogans was that Government and IBA should come to senses immediately and attend to the issues which are long neglected. It was also demanded that the total insensitivity should be put to an end and the most reasonable demands be conceded.

The crowd at about 11 a.m. swelled to the adjoining streets. The elder citizens of the banking industry and the lady comrades in fairly good number stood for hours to hear the leaders. The crowd remained unmoved as it is till the conclusion of the programme at about 3 p.m. Com. K.V. Acharya, President, AIBPARC, coordinated the whole programme from beginning to end. After giving a brief introduction on the purpose of the Dharna, he invited Shri R.N. Banerjee, President, Federation of SBI Pensioners' Association to speak. Shri Banerjee congratulated the huge crowd and urged upon the Government and IBA to ponder over as to why the elder citizens of the industry are on the streets. If a proper answer to this question is sought for by power that be, the insensitivity to the community will end. Com. Ashok Rao, a known name for many years as an advocate for the public sector observed that the Dharna at Jantar Mantar is organized mainly by the young people and the elder citizens. There is a commonality in between the two – don't make education and health a commodity. He also observed that provision of NPA is virtually a pension to defaulters of bank loans. Why then the pension of real pensioners will not be increased. Com. K.D. Khara, former President of AIBOC observed that there are large numbers of retirees in the banking sector who are still unorganized. They do not remain under the cover of any organisation. If they can be organized, it would be easier to fulfill the demand which is already there in the Regulation.

Com. A. Rameshbabu, General Secretary, Federation of SBI Pensioners' Association congratulates the swelling crowd who have come together to fight for principles. SBI – Pensioners have a different set of problems which will be tackled at the level of the said institution; but there are many common issues for which all of us can jointly fight. He urges

upon all the working unions and associations to support the cause of retirees. He also calls for a protracted struggle. Com. Santharaju, former General Secretary of AIBOC, observes that it is really paradoxical to note that the elder citizens of the banking industry who did their best in implementing poverty amelioration programmes in their service life are today sitting in the street to update their pension and DA. The civil servants are getting everything automatically whereas financial sector is languishing. This is a symbolic Dharna and the struggle will continue.

Com. Harvinder Singh, General Secretary, AIBOC, started his speech with the observation that the demands of the pensioners and retirees are the demands of AIBOC. He said that the demands were submitted officially and discussed with sincerity. At one stage of the negotiation, there was some lack of seriousness on the part of some of the organisations which did not want that the voice of retirees be heard. Pressure from the new generation on the leadership was also there. Certain changes in the accounting norm played havoc at a very crucial time. The record note was signed under certain circumstances which he narrated in detail. He referred to the series of correspondence done by AIBOC on the issues of retirees and also the reply of IBA. He narrated in brief the submission of IBA before CLC. IBA submitted, inter alia, that they would take up the issue of domiciliary treatment with the insurance company and they support the contention of retirees. IBA further informed that the cost factor to each issue will be assessed by an actuary already appointed by them and the report will be available within 3 to 4 months. Com. Singh concluded with his reassurance that AIBOC will be doing its part of the job.

Com. D.B. Gupta, a senior leader of AIBRF informed the gathering that the greatest injustice is being done to the family pensioners. DA neutralization is pending with ministry for 5 years. Updation of pension is being denied without valid reasons. The functionaries of IBA should not forget that when they would not be in the chairs, they would be Mr. Nobody. He calls for unity of all retiree organisations.

Com. Tapan Sen, General Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, observed that pension updation was a demand which could not be negated by the Government because they allow it to its own employees. He observed that IBA is a powerless body and it is virtually controlled by Ministry of Finance. Any Government, he felt, which comes to power is going to sell out assets of the people. The fight of the pensioners should be orchestrated with the fight of the working class otherwise the designs of the Government cannot be flouted. He also called upon the pensioners covered under Pension Regulation for fight for the employees and officers who are covered under the New Pension Scheme. He lends total support to the ongoing struggle. Com. Sitaram Yechuri, General Secretary, CPI(M) could not attend the Dharna because of compulsive preoccupations but he sent his good wishes for the success of the struggle by a message.

Shri Pawan Kumar, Organising General Secretary of BMS, observes that the pension of the MLAs and MPs are being fabulously increased. Why then, the pensioners of the banking industry will not get their rightful shares. He felt that the provision for updation of pension was written in the agreements reached between two parties. IBA should not feel hesitant to implement it. He pledges full support to the demands of the organisation. Com. Malhotra of AIBRA thanked the participants for a large scale presence. He observes that he is viewing success of the movement in the horizon because such a dedicated crowd can only achieve the demands. Com. Anantha Krishnan, a senior leader of the movement informed in brief the outcome of the dialogue which he and his associates had with Minister of State for Finance.

Com. Sukumaran of RNBOC observed that it was really a day for rejoice because after long efforts, all the major organisations of retirees have come together to achieve a common cause. Com. S.R. Sengupta, General Secretary, AIBPARC, while congratulating the crowd, made the following observations. Trade union is a continuous journey. It will not stop till demands are realized. If Government and IBA do not hear us, we cannot stop the journey. We might have to think in future for making a procession to the Parliament or official residence of the Prime Minister. Com. Suprita Sarkar, Joint General Secretary, thanked the participants who have assembled from different parts of the country after undertaking lot of sufferings. He felt that when determination was so strong, the dedication of elder citizens cannot go unnoticed.

The organisation will have to process the outcome of the present phase of agitation and then chalk out the future line of action. Com. K.B. Ballur, the Working President of the organisation praised the participants for the troubles undertaken by them. He observed the demands were logical, the path of agitation is legal and nonviolent and the Government should hear the voice of retirees with caution and care since all of them are in an advanced age.

Com. K.V. Acharya, President, AIBPARC, concluded the programme with his remarks that the future would be ours. We convey our gratefulness to all our leaders, veterans, activists of AIBPARC, Delhi State Committee for taking tremendous initiative to make the programme an astounding success. Long live CBPRO. Long Live Unity of Retirees Organisations. Long Live the outcome of the Dharna of historical 11 th December, 2015.

With best wishes
(S. R. SEN GUPTA)
GENERAL SECRETARY