

ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS & RETIREES CONFEDERATION



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

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Date: April 21, 2025.

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Circular no 31-25

For circulation among members of the Governing Council, State Secretaries, Special Invitees, Advisors, Affiliates, Constituents of CBPRO and Members.

Dear Comrade,

Sub: Meeting of UFBU with IBA on Residual Issues proposed to be held on 23.04.2025.

We are reproducing here under the text of our letter written on 20.04.2025 to all the Constituents of UFBU individually on the above-mentioned subject.

This is for information of members.

With best wishes and regards,

Comradely yours,

Suprita Sarkar General Secretary

Encl: As stated

AIBPARC/Constituents of UFBU/email/2025. Date: April 20, 2025.

To,
All the Constituents of UFBU

Dear Comrade,

Sub: Meeting with IBA on Residual Issues proposed to be held on 23.04.2025.

We sincerely hope that IBA with open mind will discuss all the items classified as Residual Issues on the day and try to arrive at a successful resolution.

1. Our views on different issues affecting the interest of the Retirees are well known to you as we have been in continuous touch with all of you detailing out our well - documented views on each subject. You may kindly refer to our last communication in this regard made on 10.03.2025. We have an earnest request to you to appreciate that the individual assumption of any person on any issue is always more important than

what is documented in paper. We have always quoted from the Regulations which have one meaning only and there is no scope of interpretation in a different manner.

2. IBA is totally wrong in its perception (un - knowingly or deliberate) when it takes a position that there is no provision of pension updation in BEPR (1995). It always propagates a stock argument that the formula



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described in Appendix 1 of Regulation 35.1 is applicable for a particular batch of Retirees only and it has no relevance for others. At different points of time, we have placed before IBA and also before UFBU the separate copies of the same Regulation -- one is the original and the other is the Post - amendment one (Year2003 which was again duly notified in the Government Gazette i.e. Regulation 35.1) The differences between the two have been pointed out on countless occasions to IBA but you will appreciate that persons having a blind perception with deliberate intentions never change unless otherwise pressurized by the movement of Trade unions. We believe that they are deliberately doing it to kill the time so that in the process many pensioners die as per the normal law of nature and the so- called financial burden is reduced. It is in this context, we seek your help to present before IBA the issue in the proper perspective.

- 3. The comprehensive amendment passed in the year 2003 (duly notified in the Government Gazette) clearly states that the Basic Pension and Additional Pension, wherever applicable, shall be updated as per formulae in Appendix 1. This amendment eradicated the applicability of the provision to a particular batch of Retirees only and made it universal. Please note the change of words-- "shall" and "formulae" which had not been there in the original Regulation. There was more emphasis than before and that it became universally applicable for all the Retirees under the future wage revision settlements. The burden of its implementation came upon the shoulder of IBA which they failed to do. In order to cover up the deficiency on the part of IBA, all the mis- interpretation is being done. It is our appeal: please tell them on the face that there is a well spelt out regulation and IBA has to implement the same. The demand is not only "updation of Pension but more than that implementation of the existing provision of BEPR (1995) to ensure updation of Pension".
- **4**. As regards our contention that the Bank Employees Pension Regulations are based on the model of RBI/ Central Government pension rules, IBA often takes a position that there is no such wording in BEPR (1995) that it is modelled on RBI pattern. Are they denying the Agreement signed by the Predecessor Chairman of IBA on the one hand on behalf of 58 Banks and the representatives of different organisations on the other hand under the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 which has a legal enforceability by each of the sides? If that be so, we request the Constituents of UFBU to break the ill- conceived notion of IBA in this regard.

Moreover, the officials of DFS, MOF, GOI swore an Affidavit before the Mumbai HC (in the RBI case) that it was not possible for GOI to agree to updation of Pension at RBI as it would have a Contagion effect over the Pensioners of other financial sectors. Now when GOI agreed to implement pension updation at RBI (consequent upon the verdict of the Judiciary) with effect from 1st March,2019, why then it will not be implemented in Banks from the same date. We seek your help and unstinted support to our well documented logical and legal position.

5. BEPR (1995) is a statutory regulation and it is a Defined Benefit Pension Scheme quite unlike the Pension Scheme which is prevalent in Banks w.e.f. 1st April, 2010. The so - called astronomical cost which is being talked about is a complete myth. After the implementation of the 100% DA neutralisation to Pre- November 2002 Retirees, the burden has been substantially reduced. The corpus is a robust one and it is adequate enough to manage the updation of Pension which is a statutory liability of the management. Moreover, cost should not be an excuse in case of Defined Benefit Pension Scheme as available to Government and RBI Pensioners. It is a Statutory Obligation of the Banks as per Bank Employees Pension Regulations. Provision for NPAs is only Regulators Guidelines (RBI Guidelines,) and it is incumbent on the part of Banks to give precedence to Statutory Provisions as against RBI Guidelines. Moreover, the Banks have been continuously making profits except for very few years in 1990s due to change in the accounting norms of the Banks and also very few years after 2014 in the guise of Cleansing the Balance Sheets of the Banks for which Bank Pensioners should not be subjected to lose their legal entitlements. Banks have been making huge profits and this year the Net Profits of Banks including SBI are likely to sore well above Two Lakh Crores and Operating Profits breaking records despite huge Provisions for NPAs.



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6. Matter Sub-Judice is another alibi put forth by IBA to drag the issue as long as possible playing a cruel joke on the very Advancedly Aged Pensioners. Instead of considering Updation of Pension at least from the Date RBI Pensioners are again started getting Pension Updation (March 2019, the same should have been at least conceded by IBA making Matter Sub-Judice infructuous. We request you to prevail upon the IBA to implement Pension Regulation 35.1 as per the formulae adopted for Pension Updation for RBI Pensioners and render Justice to Bank Pensioners.

7. Computation of Special Allowance for the purpose of calculation of gratuity and pension:

We are happy to see that this demand is already in the list of issues for which the current agitation is going on. You will agree that for Retirees after 01.11.2012, the updation of Pension will have little meaning if the special allowance is not taken into consideration for calculation of superannuation benefits. The oft- quoted verdict of the Hon'ble Supreme Court says that the allowance which is universally, necessarily and ordinarily paid is having the status of the Basic Pay.

8. Removal of DA disparity:

This demand is already included in the Residual Issues. You will agree with us that the Retirees are a homogeneous group and there should not be any artificial classification/division among themselves depending on the basis of their date of retirement. The disparity should come to an end.

- **9.** Ex gratia Review which is waiting for clearance for unduly long time. However, we are very clear that this cannot be an excuse for not doing Updation of Pension and we request you to insist on complete implementation of Updation of Pension on the lines of Government and RBI.
- 10. Medical Insurance Premium should be borne by the Banks as available to Serving Employees and Officers.

Dear Comrades, We know that the very pertinent issues of our younger colleagues are of paramount importance and we have our best wishes always for an early settlement of such issues. We hope at the same time that you will be doing Great Justice to your older colleagues too.

With best wishes,

Comradely yours,

K.V. Acharya.
President, AIBPARC
& Jt. Convenor, CBPRO

Suprita Sarkar General Secretary