

THE FEDERATION OF BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS

(REGD.No.7364)

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CIRCULAR No.2012/32

Dated: 29/11/2012

HISTORIC FIRST GENERAL BODY CONFERENCE OF AIBPARC HELD IN NEW DELHI ON 25TH NOVEMBER, 2012 IN THE MIDST OF TREMENDOUS ENTHUSIASM – A MARVELOUS DISPLAY OF UNITY AND SOLIDARITY

We reproduce hereunder circular issued by Com. S.R. Sengupta, General Secretary of AIBPARC on the captioned subject:

QUOTE:

It was a chilly winter morning in the capital city of New Delhi. Several hundred elder citizens of the Banking industry started thronging in the Ramjas School Auditorium of Paharganj area. An elaborate reception counter, a well decorated dais, a good sitting arrangement and above all the warm and cordial response from the volunteers of AIBOC, Delhi State Unit touched the heart of delegates and observers coming from different parts of the country. Above all, the ever smiling presence of Com. Harvinder Singh, General Secretary, All India Nationalised Bank Officers' Federation was a source of inspiration and satisfaction.

The inaugural session started right at 11a.m. By that time, the ground floor and the first floor of the Hall were packed to capacity and crowd spilled over to the adjoining verandahs. The dais was shared by Sm. Krishna Tirath, Union Minister of state for Women and Child Development. Comrade D. Raja, General Secretary, CPI, Com. P.S. Murthy, General Secretary, SBI Pensioners Association, Com. P.K. Sarkar, President, AIBOC, Com. Harvinder Singh, General Secretary of AINBOF, S.R. Sengupta, Joint Convener, AIBPARC and comrade Patki who coordinated the initial function. The inaugural lamp was kindled by Sm. Krishna Tirath, Union Minister of State for Women & Child Development.

Comrade Harvinder Singh offered a brief welcome address. He informed the house that Sm. Tirath had a sentimental attachment with the movement of Bank employees and officers and it is, therefore, our natural expectation that she would feel by heart the aspiration of the elder citizens of the country. Sri Singh also welcomed comrade Raja as a veteran trade union leader of the country and solicited his support inside and outside the Parliament. Com. D. Raja was the first speaker of the inaugural session. At the outset, he clarified that he was well acquainted with leaders of AIBEA and AIBOA; still he did not hesitate to be present here because he knew AIBOC which is the driving force behind this organisation. He observed that different organisations might march separately but all of them should strike together. He praised the role of UFBU in the Banking sector and made a strong advocacy for universal pension coverage for all the Indians. He appealed to Bankmen for opposing Financial Reforms Bill and supported the Charter of Demands submitted by UFBU. He echoed our views by saying that the elder citizens have undertaken a huge suffering in their serving days and they require a better reward from the society and the government.

Comrade P.K. Sarkar, President, AIBOC, remained present in the conference for the whole day and actively participated in all the proceeding. He narrated the entire journey that started at Bhubaneswar and reached the destination of New Delhi via Nagpur, Calcutta and Chennai. He thanked comrade G.D. Nadaf, Ex-General Secretary, in absentia for cherishing the dream and sharing the same with him. He complemented the AIBPARC for making coordinated activities in the desired direction for past 8 month and also for drafting a comprehensive Charter of Demands for the Retirees. He explained in details before the Hon'ble Union Minister for state that pensioners of banks unlike the pensioners of state and central governments are suffering from different anomalies aberrations and distortions which need immediate corrections. He also made a strong advocacy for the principal demands of AIBPARC.

Shri P.P.S. Murthy, General Secretary, Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations, expressed his thanks and gratitude for being called in this great assembly of Retirees of Banking sector. In his brief address, he observed that bankmen who are retiring before the signing of a Bipartite settlement are being put to harassment for no fault on their part. They are being denied of their rightful share and facing financial distortions. This in fact is a violation of the fundamental right of the citizen, Government of India must ensure that its machinery does not stand in the way of the retirees' rightful aspiration. He also briefed the house about deprivations in SBI and the long fight waged by the organisation. He assured the assembly of full cooperation and coordination.

Sm. Krishna Tirath was the last speaker of the inaugural session. She started speaking in the midst of thunderous claps of the audience. She praised some of the activities of the bank retirees in different parts of the country which include, inter alia, helping poor students, plantation of trees, free medical camps etc. and observed that the organisation by such activities can come closer to the heart of the society. By statistical

feedbacks, she explained before the house that the number of older citizens in the country are increasing in a very rapid manner and they deserved dignity and humanly treatment from rest of the society. She pointed out the suffering of the older citizens in the unorganized sector and observed that all of us need to do for betterment of society. She expressed her oneness with the demands of bank retirees and felt that the aspirations are mostly in lines with those of the central government pensioners. She encouraged the emergence of the new born organisation and hoped that they would contribute substantially to the betterment of their members as well as the society.

Sri S.R. Sengupta, Joint Convener, AIBPARC, offered vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session. In the midst of thunderous claps he thanked all leaders, activists and veterans for crossing the magic mark of 25000 of membership from all Public Sector and Private Sector Banks and within a short time it would establish itself as the sole spokesman of the bank retirees. He informed the house that at the time of bank nationalization the business houses opposed it but the trade unions supported this demand in the streets. In the post nationalization phase Madam Indira Gandhi met the leaders of trade union and acknowledged the role played by the employees and officers of the banking industry. Paying respect to this political tradition, he made an appeal to Sm. Krishna Tirath, Union Minister, to have sympathy for the demands of the Bank retirees who in fact are the architects of the rural development in the country. He profusely thanked all the invitees and guests for their kind presence in the house and also for the words of encouragement in their speeches.

The business session started at the scheduled time with Com. P.K. Sarkar, President, AIBOC in the chair. The dais was shared by comrade K.V. Acharya, S.R. Sengupta, Com. T.T. Natarajan, Com. D. Punja, Com. J.D. Sharma and Com. Harvinder Singh.

- One minute silence was observed in memory of the departed souls of all those who made immense contribution to various faculties of human civilization.
- S.R. Sengupta, placed a detailed written report which was distributed amongst all delegates and observers well ahead. As annexures to the report the updated accounts, the proposal on amendment to constitution and official resolutions were also tabled before the house for discussion and deliberations of the house.
- President of the session called upon the members to take part in deliberation by introducing them before the house and to be brief and to the point in deliberations. The next two hours was a well disciplined session in which 17 delegates took part in deliberations and spoke on various issues which include, interalia, the following points :-

Whether the name of the organisation can be modified further; larger level of cooperation needed from the affiliates of working comrades in consolidation of the retirees; protection of better interest rates for the retirees; DA discrimination; status of SBI retirees organisation in AIBPARC vis a vis the position of the retired leaders of SBI; the fate of left out optees; increased quantum of gratuity for retirees who did not receive the benefits; formation of state units; formation of grievance redressal cell; pathetic plight of pre-1986 retirees; problems various shades faced by private sector banks; whether united forum for retirees needed or not; problems in the implementation of recent govt. circulars on second option for pension in nationalized banks; need for coordinated fight for justice; need for a comprehensive and uniform medical benefit/hospitalization scheme for the retirees; earmarking of a larger share of welfare funds for the pensioners; need for chalking out organizational programmes for the future etc, In all 17 delegates participated in the deliberations and put forth their issues before the General Body.

- S.R. Sengupta, in an elaborate reply to the queries thanked all the speakers and observed that the relevant points raised in the meetings have been duly noted for future follow up and actions. He, however, selected some of the points for recording the view of the organisation and also for information of the house. His concluding observations on various points are noted hereunder :
- The abbreviated name of the organisation does not require any change at the present moment because of its phonetic advantages
- Most of the affiliates of AIBOC are cooperating in the matter of floating and consolidating the organisation of retirees. There might have been a few exceptions which will be sorted out by way of dialogue.
- DA discrimination and uniform medical/hospitalisation scheme have found a prominent place in the Charter of Demands submitted by different constituents of UFBU
- It has been clarified in the report of the Joint Convener that the organisation of the retirees of SBI will not be joining AIBPARC as an affiliate but they would be coordinating with us in the best possible manner. In such a situation nobody from SBI has been a delegate to the conference but the good will of the organisation is amply displayed by the presence of Com. P.S. Murthy. Profuse thanks have been recorded by the Joint Convener (at the time of his oral placement) towards com. G.D. Nadaf, Ex-General Secretary, AIBOC during whose tenure the dream of the organisation was conceptualized.
- The retirees under clause 19.1 of OSR 79 have already got the scope of 2nd time option and as for other left outs the charter has included the demands.
- Detailed guidelines for formation of state units have already been issued by the organisation. Certain affiliates have joined recently. For information of all of them the circular will be reiterated and in line of the said circular the state committees should function. The problems of pre-1.1.1986 retirees are really

burning our hearts. We are emotionally alive to it. This issue has been covered in the charter of demands.

- Special attention will be given to the problems faced by the retirees of private sector banks.
- Being satisfied with the elaborate reply to the queries, the house with thunderous claps passed the report of the joint Convener, the accounts, the proposal to constitutional amendments and the official resolutions placed before the house.

The election of office-bearers were then conducted in a most consultative and friendly manner by way of sharing of mutual views and sentiments. The list of elected office-bearers include:

President	Sri K.V. Acharya (IOB),
Working President	Sri B.L. Rathore (SBBJ)
General Secretary	Sri S.R. Sengupta (BOI),
Treasurer	Sri B.N. Bardhan (Indian),

Com. P.S. Patki was elected one of the Vice Presidents and Com. S. Nagraj as one of the Committee members from our Federation of Bank of India Pensioners And Retirees Associations.(BOIPARA).

- Com. P.K. Sarkar, in his concluding speech welcomed the newly formed team of office-bearers and expressed stubborn optimism that the organisation would travel a long way in ensuring the welfare of the retirees of the banking sector.
- Com. Harvinder Singh, in his concluding speech observed that he took up the challenge of the first general body of AIBPARC in New Delhi because he had a desire to be a witness to the dictum that "History repeats itself". The emergence of AIBOC in 1985 and the surfacing the AIBPARC in 2012 are two landmark events to which the capital city of Delhi remained witness.
- S.R. Sengupta, at the end thanked all leaders, activists, and veterans who tired relentlessly to make the conference a great success. He pledged all his services for the betterment of the retirees.
- Com. K.V. Acharya, the newly elected president of AIBPARC expressed his gratitude to the members and observed the entire team would work unitedly for reaching the destination.

Comrade, the conference is over but the task is not. We shall have to work harder in months to come. We shall organize, consolidate and fight. We shall be in touch with the union Govt., IBA and leaders of various political parties to find corners of sympathy for the rightful share of the retirees. **UNQUOTE**

Comrades, we should all take pride in the formation of AIBPARC. Federation of Bank of India Pensioners And Retirees Associations which had sought affiliation with AIBPARC has also held its Foundation Conference on 24th November, 2012 at New Delhi (separate circular being issued). We call upon our entire membership to combined might to ensure the all our retired colleagues are brought under the banner of FBOIPARA.

With warm greetings,

Yours faithfully,



(HARVINDER SINGH)
GENERAL SECRETARY