

ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION

(Registered under the Trade Unions Act 1926, Registration No.:3427/Delhi)



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Ref: 2013/DFS/17

Dated:13/09/2013

The Secretary
Deptt. of Financial Services, M.O.F.
Government of India
Jeevan Deep, IIIrd Floor,
Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Respected Sir,

**Re : Opening of branches on holidays i.e. 15th September 2013
and extending working hours on 14th September 2013**

Please refer to your communication Ref. F.No. 7/12/2013-BO.II Dated 11th Sept. 2013 to The Chief General Managers, R.B.I. and copy to Chairman, Indian Banks' Association seeking opening of Bank Branches on Sunday, 15th September 2013 and extended working hours on Saturday, 14th September, 2013 to facilitate Advance Tax Collection. We recall your earlier instructions to keep the Branches open on 29th (Good Friday) & 31th March 2013 being holidays for public and extending working hours on Saturday, 30th March 2013 for the same purpose. In this connection, we have to state that while we understand the importance of collection of tax, we are at a loss to understand as to how it can become a routine affair to give instructions only to Bank Employees and Officers to work on holidays and Sundays. You are aware, in the state of Kerala during 14th & 15th September 2013 Onam festival is to be celebrated with great cultural fervor cutting across all religions of the State. Opening of Branches on 15th September 2013 in the State and extended working hours on 14 in the state of Kerala will certainly hurt the sentiments of all the people. It is a known fact that all the tax payers are aware of the various announcements and publicity given by the Govt. with regard to the last date of

payment of advance tax. In this back ground, is it justified that only the toiling Bank Officers and Employees should only be made to suffer to help undisciplined tax payers?

We would also like to bring to your kind notice that Officers and Award Staff members in the Banking Industry are already working under tremendous pressure due to shortage of staff and they need the required rest after working for six continuous days. Stretching their working days and calling them on holidays will certainly have telling effect on their health. This has become a regular phenomenon that only bank employees are being called on Sundays and regular holidays. The Award Staff is being compensated by payment of overtime at the rate of 200% of their normal wages but no compensation is being given to Officers. We strongly feel that same monetary compensation can be paid to Officers also. Calling the officers under force will aggravate their stress and strain. A reasonable compensation can atleast bring solace and satisfaction to them that they are not discriminated vis-à-vis the award staff.

Therefore, we strongly demand that compensation similar to being paid to award staff may be extended to Officers also, if it is inevitable to call them on a holiday. As such, we request you to give necessary instructions to all Public Sector Banks immediately.

Thanking you and with kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harvinder Singh', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

(HARVINDER SINGH)
GENERAL SECRETARY