ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION



(Registered under the Trade Unions Act 1926, Registration No.:3427/Delhi) C/o Bank of India, Parliament Street Branch, PTI Building, 4, Parliament Street, New Delhi:110001 Phone:011-23730096 Fax 23719431 E-Mail: <u>aiboc.sectt@gmail.com</u>

Ref: 2013/DFS/18

Dated:13/09/2013

The Chairman, Indian Banks' Association, <u>Mumbai</u>

Respected Sir,

Please refer to communication Ref. F.No. 7/12/2013-BO.II Dated 11th Sept. 2013 of the Department of Financial Services to The Chief General Managers, R.B.I. and copy to you requesting you to issue appropriate advisory to all member banks for opening of Bank Branches on Sunday, 15th September 2013 and extended working hours on Saturday, 14th September, 2013 to facilitate Advance Tax Collection. In this regard we recall 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 14^{th} & 15^{th} 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,

(HARVINDER SINGH) GENERAL SECRETARY

Copy to: <u>The Chairman & Managing Director</u> <u>All Banks</u>