

DEAR MEMBERS WE GIVE BELOW THE COMMUNICATION OF RETIREES WHO HAVE CONVEYED THEIR FEELINGS IN VARIOUS BLOGS FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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To
General Secretary,
All India Bank Employees Association,
Central Office, Singapore Plaza, 164, Linghi Chetty Street,
Chennai - 600001

Kind attention: Shri C.H.VENKATACHALAM

Sir,

I have gone through the contents of letter dated 12.05.2015 addressed to convener UFBU by GS, AIBRF, Indore in regard to the four demands of the retirees already taken by UFBU in their charter of demands submitted to IBA about 30 months before. In response to aforesaid letter of AIBRF, you have mentioned that this letter is unwarrantedly provocative; but I personally feel that there is nothing provocative, offensive & challenging in this letter rather the same reflects & replicates the sentiments, feelings, reactions, opinion and emotions of lakhs of retirees who had been imposing confidence in UFBU and AIBRF. Further, from your letter dated 14.05.2015 addressed to GS, AIBRF, Indore, it seems that UFBU is not using its bristly, prickly and thorny teeth to find a solution & resolution to the demands of retirees, in a manner as is being negotiated, bargained and parleyed by Central Government Employees leaders rather a tinge & shade of helplessness, defenselessness and vulnerability before IBA is being felt. Being associated with the unions, for a long period of 30 years, I felt it mortified, disgraced & humiliated as I am well aware of the power, influence & dominance of respected CHV and therefore I take the opportunity to share my views on your aforesaid letter dated 14.05.2015 with an appeal to give a enduring & unwearied hearing to the following issues:

1. I agree that UFBU has taken up the matter with IBA for resolution of four demands of the Retirees i.e. Medical Scheme for the retirees, Improvement in family pension, 100% DA for pre-Nov. 2002 retirees, Periodical updation of pension about 30 months before in the charter of demand submitted to IBA. It is a statement of fact.
2. In regard to the first demand of Medical scheme for retirees, you have mentioned that IBA has agreed to offer Medical scheme to existing employees and the same would continue to be provided even after the retirement of an employee or officer. Further, it has been agreed that the same scheme would be made applicable to all the past retirees also. I congratulate the entire team of UFBU for this achievement, triumph & accomplishment.
3. In regard to the 2nd demand of improvement in Family Pension, IBA has been talking of the cost involved in its implementation but has never come out with the exact & accurate cost of implementation. The key and foremost question here is that this benefit is applicable to all retirees and also to those who have to retire in the next 20-25 years. It is pertinent & relevant here to mention that there has been no addition in the list of such eligible and entitled persons since the day of submission of the charter of demand to IBA, rather the list must have got clutched rather squeezed on account of few deaths of the family members. In case IBA is not coming forward to work out the cost of implementation of this improvement in family pension, can UFBU work out the cost of the same by appointing some professional who can charge few lakhs rupees and submit a full-fledged report, provided that professional is supplied accurate, precise & relevant data, which must be at the disposal of the UFBU. I feel that 30 months was enough period to work out the cost of the same at IBA level and in the event IBA has not been able to find out the cost of improvement even after a gap of 30

months, what is that probable time UFBU needs to find out the same at their own level. All retirees are eager to know this development and therefore I would earnestly implore and pray before you to share with the retirees through this blog the estimate time required to work out the cost of improvement in family pension. In this era of technology, I feel this exercise can be completed within few days. Once that cost is available, UFBU will be in a better position to negotiate with IBA, as I am confident & convinced that banks pension funds are so huge that they can bear this load without any difficulty, obscurity & complexity. It is heartening & inspiring to note that this demand of improvement of family pension is still under serious consideration of IBA and UFBU is vigorously pursuing the same with IBA as mentioned in your aforesaid letter.

4. In regard to 100% DA neutralization, many courts have already given judgments in favor of the employees much before the day of submission of charter of demands by UFBU to IBA and it is not a new development. I agree that after the day for submission of charter of demands, few more judgments have been given by the Hon'ble Courts but all them are in favor of employees again. Therefore, IBA argument that the matter is subjudice does not seem to be rational, reasonable, coherent & logical, as IBA has agreed in various meeting that this issue has been recommended to Ministry of Finance for approval. This issue pertains to just limited number of employees and is an anomaly rather incongruity since every employee has the rights & privileges to get uniform DA irrespective of the date of retirement. I would therefore plead, pray & implore before you to take up this issue with IBA dynamically, vigorously & heartily and take the credit, glory, acclaim & recognition on your broad & extensive shoulders, as ultimately favorable verdicts are expected sooner from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

5. In regard to 4th demand of updation of pension, banks have got mammoth, gigantic & colossal funds in their pension fund accounts, which is many times more than the cost involved in this updation. This is the reason that IBA has never come out with the exact & accurate cost of updation in various meeting held with UFBU as IBA is well aware and conscious rather awake that the actual cost of updation of pension is very much within the capacity & capability of the banks. It is shocking & awful to note that UFBU has also not been able to obtain the cost of updation from IBA even after a gap of 30 months in this newer era of technology. I am confident that once UFBU is able to find the cost of updation of pension, it will not be a difficult task to convince & induce IBA and Government for approval of this legitimate demand of updation of pension. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has recently given judgment of payment of 20% as arrears to LIC employees in similar case. It is horrendous, atrocious and awful to note that one old General Manager who retired 20 years back is drawing lesser pension than a clerk retired now, who once upon was a peon working under him. Many old retirees are just half fed and therefore I would pray, implore and appeal before you to kindly take up this issue with IBA more vigorously, dynamically and heartily.

In the end, I may humbly, modestly and meekly remind you not to forget that on 7th March 2014, as General Secretary of AIEBA, you asserted & vowed profusely before a gathering of thousands of retirees at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi not to sign the Bipartite Settlement until all the demands of the retirees are approved by IBA. This is your commitment made to all the retirees and therefore it does not behave a top leader of such a high stature and height to back out from his promises made at an August & dignified platform. Therefore, I will make one more plead, appeal & prayer to you to defer & postpone the process of signing of bipartite settlement by about 30 days so that UFBU is able to get approved all the four demands of the retirees by having meetings twice a week. I am sure that you will use your good offices by garnering & reaping the support of other constituents of UFBU for finding a solution & resolution to all the aforesaid demands of the retirees.

Thanking you,

O.P. SHARMA

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From: JSOMA SHEKARA <jsomasekara2007@gmail.com>

To: bankpensioner@googlegroups.com

Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 7:46 PM

Subject: Re: bankpensioner AIBRF LEADERS MET FINANCE MINISTER AND SUBMITTED
MEMORANDUM ON RETIREES ISSUES ON 12th MAY'15

GS of AIBEA now claim that 100% DA issue cannot be taken up because case is in court.

1. Does AIBEA not aware the fact that case has to be filed because UFBU signed the joint note during 2005 leaving out Pre-2002 retirees.
2. Single bench Judge of Madras High court decreed that denying 100% DA to pre-2002 retirees is discrimination and decreed that benefit should be extended to them. Instead of implementing verdict who went to court for appeal? Why UFBU did not prevent IBA from going for appeal and convince IBA to implement judgment? Why he was silent then? Now when Pensioners have appealed why AIBEA getting agitated?
2. If he really honest about parties going to courts will he appeal to IBA to implement Madras court verdict without going for appeal in SC?
3. If case pending in SC is impediment for settling 100% DA why AIBEA did not disclose this during 2014? Why false hopes were created by informing that 100% DA has been sent for approval of FM?
4. If it is true that 100% DA has been sent for approval as claimed by UFBU is it not the primary duty of UFBU as a responsible trade union to ascertain conditions of approval from IBA viz date of effect etc to protect the interests of the pensioners.
5. As a veteran trade union leader GS must aware that if IBA and UFBU both sign agreement extending 100% DA to Pre-2002 retirees from 2005 as directed by Madras high court cases will be withdrawn. Is there any further discussions between IBA and UFBU necessary once verdict is implemented?
6. Instead of beating bush GS of AIBEA must come out with facts. What is the intention of UFBU on date of effect? Can CHV give assurance that 100% DA will be implemented from 2005 so that cases can be withdrawn?
7. It is better to bring to the notice of CHV that second Pension option for CRS retirees finally settled in court in January 2015. Why CHV silent all these months when no court case was pending in this regard? Why he did not discuss this issue with IBA to extend verdict to all eligible CRS retirees? Whenever issues are not in court you will make no attempt to settle the issue with IBA and allow the issue to drag for years but whenever retirees go to court you will claim that as sub judice.
8. Pensioners want to know when UFBU realized that Pension Updation is difficult to tackle? If that is so letter written by AIBOA to convene UFBU suggesting methods of Updation is an eye wash? Are you not giving unnecessary hopes among Pensioners by writing such letters when you are convinced that issue is difficult to tackle? If you are not convinced about settling the issue why during AIBRF dharna gave a statement that unless Pension updation is settled X BPS will not be signed. That means

whatever be the impediments CHV will fight to see that issue is settled favorably. As owner of the statement CHV must understand the implications of statement.

9. UFBU itself informed us that IBA asked UFBU to submit a viable Updation Scheme so that it can be examined? Did UFBU prepared and submit such scheme to IBA?

10. Without arriving at total cost and funds at disposal how UFBU came to conclusion that Updation is difficult to tackle? Because IBA said so? With so much resources available to UFBU is it difficult to find out cost? To bargain you must have sufficient data collected from your own source. Can UFBU disclose cost of Updation to Pensioners and funds available in Pension fund so as to convince them that Pension Updation is difficult to tackle?

11. GS of AIBEA feels provoked by AIBRF letter. But all retirees request him to spare a moment for retirees

1. Who are struggling for second Pension option in spite of decisive court verdicts?

- For those unfortunate retirees who left this world without getting justice from IBA and UFBU?
- For SBM Pensioners who are struggling for 5 years benefit in spite of SC giving verdict in 2009?

2. You are against going to courts. But are you not aware that pensioners have been refused 50% basic pay from DOR and Banks have appealed in SC? Is it fair if banks go to court or do you feel only pensioners should not appeal?

12. As both IBA and UFBU will not talk to pensioners only God knows answers to these puzzles.