FEW VITAL QUESTIONS RAISED IN A BANKING BLOG

Facts	Questions That Needs to be Answered Now
Officers Unions and Workmen unions included the demands of the retired bankers in their respective Charter of Demands (These can be still downloaded from our website : (a) Charter of Demands by Workmen Unions - AIBEA, NCBE, BEFI, INBEF, NOBW ; (b) Charter of Demand by OFFICERS' UNIONS - AIBOC, AIBOA, INBOC, NOBO In both the Charter of Demands Full Chapters have been included which reflected the aspirations of the retired officers as well as workmen. Each and every retired banker was sure that as it was in last BPS, the issues relating to retired bankers too will form part of the final BPS. They waited patiently inspite of their advancing age and a large number of them being infirm on account of old age. They contributed to the respective associations till the date of retirement.	(a) If it was intention of the IBA and UFBU to delink the issues of retired bankers, why they did not declare it so in November 2012 itself. Then at least in last 30 months, retired bankers would have moved different authorities for resolving their issues. (b) Who among UFBU decided that the issues of retirees will not form part of the final BPS. (c) Whether this delink of the negotiations for serving and retired bankers is now on permanent basis or it is only for convenience sake this time? (d) Should retiring bankers (up to 2017) now stop immediately their subscription as UFBU in future is not likely to take their issues post-retirement?
In the circulars issued by UFBU from time to time, they have made retired bankers to believe that they are seriously taking up the issues of retired bankers. I would like to quote here from AIBOC Circular No. 2015/20 dt/ 18.04.2015 (i.e. merely a month back) "We also expressed our strong views about taking up of the issues of retirees like 100% DA neutralization for retirees prior to 01.11.2001, updation of pension, revision in family pension and extension of another option of pension to resignees and compulsorily retired who have been excluded from the option of pension despite the clear understanding in the last settlement. We also emphasized that group hospitalization insurance policy for retirees should also be demanded from IBA. With regard to the retirees' issues, it has been decided to take up with IBA: a) Updation of pension as per regulation 35(1) of the Pension Regulations 1995 since updation of pension is in-built in pension regulation and IBA should give necessary instruction to all the banks to implement the same, b) Extending DA neutralization for those pensioners who retired before 01.11.2002	(i) Till mid April 2015, the leader of AIBOC, Mr Harvinder Singh had been assuring their retired cadre that they are in consultation with IBA on issues of retired bankers; (ii) Why retired bankers were kept in dark if IBA was NOT ready to discuss the issues of retired bankers? Is it not betrayal of the faith put in by senior citizens in the organization to which they were members till retirement? (iii) What has been the major change in past one month, which led to the decision of dumping the retired bankers? Is it part of vendetta or non payment of subscription by them at this stage? Mr Singh needs to come clean on this issue

and to improve family pension at par with the government pensioners.	
Interestingly, in his reply to AIBRF, Mr CHV has made the following comments : The demands relating to Retirees were included in the charter of demands not at the behest of anyone but out of our own conviction that these issues have to be taken up for resolution.	The questions now arises why there is a sudden change in conviction of his so called tall leader? Have some under the table talks happened which led to the change in his such a strong conviction that he included these demands on his own? By merely saying these words does not absolve him of the 30 months period during which many of the retired bankers must have died and their family waiting for some good news will now get a shock that some of them may even die.
In another para CHV while talking about medical scheme has replied that : Further, it has been agreed that the same scheme would be made applicable to all the past retirees also.This is by no means an ordinary achievement.	CHV wants to take the credit for the medical scheme but is not ready to take discredit for leaving the retired bankers on their critical issues which have been dumped suddenly. He wants that UFBU should be entitled to discuss the issues of retired bankers as well as he is trying to meekly slip on issues of family pension, 100% DA neutralization and updation of pension issues.
Going ahead CHV claims as follows: Regarding 100% DA for past cases, the IBA and the Government were willing to consider the same. But of late we find that they feel that the matter is subjudice for discussions as some court cases are pending before Supreme Court for which we are not responsible	This is a bizarre argument as no Court will have any objections if the agreement outside the Court is made and based on that court cases are withdrawn as the aggrieved parties are satisfied. Moreover, others have also quoted instances of the past where Unions have entered into agreements even when the cases were subjudiced. This argument is nothing but befool people who do not knowledge of law. CHV is forgetting that recent circular giving benefit to CRS employees for leave encashment has come only and only because many High Courts have given verdict in favour of CRS employees. Inspite of supporting the rightful cause of bankers, CHV is admitting that they are not responsible and do not support the system of getting benefits through Court judgements.

Now let us read the argument of CHV on the issue of updation of pension : On the issue of updation of pension, IBA has very serious reservations in view of the cost implications which is very high according to them. So we have asked for the details of number of pensioners, present pension, etc. so that we can work out the cost and fund required for the same and then pursue the matter further	It is again a funny argument. Has IBA suddenly realized that it has cost implications and 900 days were not sufficient to get the details of number of pensioners, present pension etc to work out the cost and funds required? Are all the leaders of 9 top most unions of banking industry, in this age of IT can not ask their back room team to get the data of number of pensioners and present pension in last 900 days? All this data is available with every bank on computer as now a days almost every bank pays the pension through computerized generated pensions. Thus, if there are good intensions, then this data can be collected maximum in a week time and analysed. This is not a rocket science. Take the help of any good IT banker and he will do it for UFBU in less than a week.
The worst part of the whole letter of CHV comes at the end, where he issues a veiled threat to all retired bankers : **If your letter is to request for further efforts, it would be viewed accordingly. If otherwise, we will take it on our strides.**	This is nothing short of an open threat but put in a veiled manner. Do retired bankers now assume that CHV and other UFBU leaders will work against the interests of the retired bankers and they have to go to Courts to settle the issues? CHV needs to clarify that now onwards UFBU will not take up any issues of retired bankers. Even in the past they have never come up with retired bankers in fighting Court cases. Such type of threat is not only regrettable but SHAMEFUL for all the leaders of UFBU. They need to issue a public apology for such a threat.