



ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS' & RETIREES' CONFEDERATION



(A.I.B.P.A.R.C.)

C/O BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
(EASTERN INDIA BRANCHES)
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TREASURER

SHRI A. N. MUKHERJEE
MOB- 9830302997

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PRESIDENTS:

1. SHRI K.B. BALLUR
MOB - 9481101106
2. SHRI P.S. PATKI
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3. SHRI C. G. YADAV.
MOB - 9440528806
4. SHRI
S.B.C. KARUNAKARAN,
MOB - 9444772016

SR. VICE PRESIDENTS:

Shri M.R. GOPINATH RAO
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Circular no. 66-21

Date: September 30,2021.

**For circulation among members of the Governing Council,
State Secretaries, Special Invitees, Advisors, Affiliates and
Members.**

Dear Comrade,

**Sub: Group Medical Insurance Scheme for Bank Retirees, 2021--22 --
an appeal to Hon'ble Union Finance Minister for an immediate
intervention.**

We are reproducing hereunder the text of our letter written on date to The Hon'ble Union Finance Minister on the above subject. This is for information of members.

With best wishes and regards,

Comradely Yours,

Suprita Sarkar
General Secretary.

Encl::As stated.



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AIBPARC/FM/GMISR/Email/2021

.Date: September 30,2021.

**Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji,
Hon'ble Finance Minister,
Government of India,
New Delhi.**

Respected Madam,

**Sub: Group Medical Insurance Scheme for Bank Retirees for the year
2021--22.**

We beg to encroach upon your valuable time over an issue that has pushed the senior citizens of the Banking Industry to a hapless corner from which Your Good Self can only rescue us. Being emboldened by your known sympathy for the Senior Citizens of the Industry, We pray for a few minutes of time to go through our brief submission:

1.As advised by DFS, MOF, GOI, the Indian Bank Association formulated a Group Medical Insurance Policy for the Bank Retirees in the year 2015.Government in their communication never mentioned that the Retirees would have to bear the full amount of Premium by themselves. But the fact remained that it was put on the shoulder of Retirees without any element of sacrifice on the part of Banks.

2.The paradox lies in the fact that Banks offer full reimbursement of cost of medical expenses to the serving employees as per terms of service conditions and the retired MDs & CEOs and the EDs are also entitled to get full reimbursement of cost of medical expenses. A step-- motherly treatment is meted out to the Retirees only who spent their yesterdays to secure a better tomorrow for the nation.

3.Since inception of the Policy in the year 2015, there has been steep increase of annual premium every year and as a result of this, large number of Retirees have been forced out of the Medical Insurance Scheme due to un-affordability and the number of optees to the Medical Insurance Scheme has dwindled considerably. The month of September/October turns to be a nightmare to the oldest citizens of the Banking Industry not knowing what quantum of misfortune is waiting for him/her. This year has surpassed the records of misery of all previous years.

4.There has been almost an increase of 40.00pc over and above the annual premium of the previous year to secure himself/herself for the same amount of base cover. In many cases, a pensioner will have to pay a sum as premium which is equivalent to two months' Pension. It is a very



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awkward situation for we, the Retirees. Here comes the most important question--will the Employer make no amount of sacrifice for its past Employees?

5.The cause of this astronomical rise has been ascribed to the high "Incurred Claim Ratio" of The Insurance Company. IBA as well as the Insurance provider have conveniently forgotten that the Corona pandemic has changed the face of the whole world and the figures emanating at this particular year cannot be accepted as a model of other years. It may please be recalled that at one point of time of the year, the Insurance companies refused to reimburse the cost of Corona patients on the ground that it was an Act of God --sent disaster but it is only at the intervention of the Government, they reversed the decision. It, therefore, transpires that a special calamity deserves a special consideration. The large scale vaccination has also mitigated the severity of the disease and We can reasonably hope that better days would emerge.

6.As per the advice of IBA and intimation received from National Insurance Company Ltd, different Banks have started issuance of circulars. Generally, in the last week of October, the premium is debited/ realised from the account of the Retirees. We have hardly three weeks of time in hand to act upon.

We have requested The Chairman, IBA for two things: (A)Banks should partly bear the cost of premium. This is the barest minimum the Banks should do when they are so considerate to give Free and Full Medical Reimbursement to Retired MDs and Ed's and now to Chief General Managers of SBI. (B)Banks should bear the GST component.

We did not get any positive indication for this from the Indian Banks Association so far.

Finding no other alternative before us, We approach your good self for an urgent intervention into the matter. Your open declaration in the 73rd AGM of IBA that the past Retirees and the Existing Employees and Officers should be treated by the Banks as members of the same family has created in our minds a feeling that you do have a special sympathy for the Bank Retirees and the notion has been further strengthened by your clearance of the improved Family Pension recently.

In fact, the Government extends the CGHS facility to their Retirees also with onetime payment by the Retirees. But in Banks while serving employees Premium is fully borne by the Banks, paradoxically the Bank Retirees are asked to bear the Entire Premium by themselves and ironically asked to pay much higher Premium for two persons only (Retiree and Spouse).

Respected Madam, the Retirees are in dire distress and some emergent steps are required to save the situation. It will be a Great Gesture if the Government directs the Banks to Subsidize the Premium substantially and also to bear the GST component of the Medical Insurance Scheme.

Respected Madam, We are very hopeful of favourable consideration of our request.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

K V Acharya,
President, AIBPARC,
Joint Convenor,
Coordination of Bank
Pensioners and Retirees Organisations

Suprita Sarkar ,
General Secretary,
AIBPARC.