



ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS' & RETIREES' CONFEDERATION

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Circular no: 12 - 25

Date: February 21, 2025

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

Dear Comrade,

Sub: Protracted agitation programme called by CBPRO - Bank Retirees and Pensioners urged upon to take part in large numbers to ventilate the agonies and aspirations of the Senior and Super Senior Citizens of the Banking industry - the window of Online Memorandum made open on and from 21st February, 2025 as the first phase of agitation.

We are reproducing hereunder the circular of CBPRO - 02-2025 dated 21.02.25 on the above referred subject for information and necessary action by all concerned.

With best wishes and regards,

Comradely yours,

K.V. Acharya.
President.
& Joint Convenor,
CBPRO

Suprita Sarkar
General Secretary

Enclo:
CBPRO circular & text of Memorandum.

COORDINATION OF BANK PENSIONERS' AND RETIREES ORGANISATIONS

(Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations, AIBPARC, RBONC, AIRBEA and FORBE)

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Circular no: CBPRO/02-2025

Date: February 21, 2025

For Circulation among the Constituents of CBPRO:

Dear Comrade,

Sub: Protracted agitation programme called by CBPRO - Bank Retirees and Pensioners urged upon to take part in large numbers to ventilate the agonies and aspirations of the Senior and Super Senior Citizens of the Banking industry - the window of Online Memorandum made open on and from 21st February, 2025 as the first phase of agitation.

1. Members are aware of the fact that CBPRO is leading an active campaign throughout the country for a considerable period of time to see that the long pending demands of the Pensioners and the Retirees, **Mainly Updation of Pension, Reckoning of Special Allowance Component for Superannuation Benefits, Medical Insurance and other Issues get resolved at the earliest possible opportunity.** It is well known why there is impatience and restlessness among the Senior and the Super Senior Citizens of the industry as they cannot wait any longer for obvious reasons and for them the waiting period is stretched far too long for decades.

2. The issues have been escalated in different forms – writing regular follow up letters to all the decision making authorities, meeting important persons at the levels of bureaucracy, IBA and the Government and to make an endeavour to have in them a perception that the Retirees/ Pensioners are not demanding the Fall of the Moon from the sky but they are only insisting on the implementation of the existing provisions of Bank Employees Pension Regulations (1995), to fight a long drawn legal battle under compulsive circumstances and finally to hit the streets with a huge assembly at various state capitals and the national capital.

3. As recently as in December 2024 and January 2025, in a span of Just Thirty days CBPRO Delegation had met Shri M. Nagarajuji, IAS, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Shri Sameer Shuklaji, IAS, Joint Secretary, Department of Financial Services and the Senior Officials of IBA. We have explained to them about the Issues which are grievously agitating the minds of the Bank Pensioners and Retirees.

4. Not getting the resolution of several core issues affecting the interest of the Pensioners and the Retirees, the organization has again decided to start a protracted struggle spread over several phases like (a) Submission of Online Memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Home Minister and the Hon'ble Finance Minister on different unresolved issues. (b) Sending a uniformly drafted memorandum (to be supplied by the organization) to the Hon'ble Members of the Parliament by every Bank Pensioner and Retiree where he /she resides (c) Holding protest demonstrations at different Centres and District Head Quarters by the State Committees which have already organized such programmes at state capitals (d) If still no forward movement on the resolution of the issues takes place, CBPRO will resort to Hunger Strikes unmindful of Our Age and Ailments.

5. Now we are declaring the opening of our yet another first phase of Action Program i.e. the sending of the Online Memorandum to the above mentioned authorities. To participate in the programme, the following steps are to be followed:

(a) Members will first open the website of AIBPARC: www.aibprc.co.in. Just above the designation of the President and the General Secretary at the first page, there is a rectangular box of red colour in which it is written "CBPRO Memorandum". Click is to be made on this box.

As CBPRO does not have any website as on date, we have decided to avail the website of AIBPARC to go ahead under special circumstances.

(b) A page containing the Memorandum will open up. At the bottom of the letter, three (3) boxes will be seen. The participating member will write his /her full name, mobile number and email id in separate boxes.

(c) Then a click is to be made on the "confirm" button. The mails will automatically trigger and a confirmation copy will come to the sender. From our previous experience, we have seen that whenever there is congestion in the line, the return mail may not always come.

(d) In the first few days, many members will make an attempt to send the memorandum at a time. There might be initial problems in sending. There is no reason to worry about it. Whatever response comes to the members, the same may be conveyed to the GS, AIBPARC at his mobile number 9674188524 since he is maintaining contact with the website manager engaged for this purpose.

(e) Those of Our members, who are Very Senior and not so comfortable to handle the smart phones may please be guided by their Friends and Leaders operating in different tiers of the organizations and locally available.

All the Constituents of CBPRO are earnestly requested to employ their fullest endeavour to ensure that members in largest possible number take part in the first phase of the campaign of Online Memorandum, undertaking relentless struggle to get the issues resolved.

With Best Wishes and Regards,



Dipak Kumar Basu



K.V. Acharya

Joint Convenors, CBPRO

Encl: Copy of Online Memorandum.

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 21, 2025

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India:
The Hon'ble Home Minister of India:
The Hon'ble Finance Minister of India:

Respected Sir/ Madam,

Sub: Long Pending Crucial unresolved issues of Bank Pensioners and Retirees.

I beg to be excused for encroaching upon your valuable time over certain long pending grievances of Bank Pensioners with the fervent hope of getting redressal from the highest office held by Your Good Self. The Bank Pensioners and Retirees Organisation I belong to has drawn the attention of all the decision - making Authorities on a number of occasions but unfortunately the issues remain unresolved.

I may please be permitted to narrate in brief a few legitimate demands of the Bank Pensioners which have eluded resolution:

1. Updation of Pension - a case of Gross Discrimination shown only to Bank Pensioners:

While the Government Pensioners' Basic Pension is Updated simultaneously with the implementation of every Pay Commission Recommendation and RBI Pensioners were granted Updation of Pension by the Government from 1st March 2019, We the unfortunate Bank Pensioners, are denied Updation despite the significant contributions made by us to uplift the trade and economy of the country for several decades including the days of turmoil of handling demonetisation and corona pandemic which are acknowledged and recognised by Your Good Self and the Government. What is intriguing most is that the Bank Employees Pension Regulations - a Subordinate Legislation provides for Updation of Pension but inexplicably remains unimplemented for three decades without accountability.

* In other words, The Original Basic Pension of a Bank Retiree remains frozen from the time of Retirement upto the death of the pensioners and beyond his / her Family Pensioners. It does not undergo any upward revision at the time of each wage revision for the In-Service Employees and Officers of the Industry while the Government employees are favoured with two types of revisions – one as Updation linked with every pay commission and the other as up-gradation with getting older in age. The Bank Employees Pension, as per the Pension Settlement of 1993, is patterned on the Pension Schemes of the Government and RBI as Second Benefit only in lieu of Contributory Provident Fund. **The Bank Employees Pension Regulations, clearly state in Regulation 56 that: "In case of any doubt, in the matter of application of these Regulations, regard may be had to the corresponding provisions of Central Civil Service Rules,1972....."**

* The Bank Employees Pension is a Defined Benefit Scheme characterizing the payment of Pension as per the provisions of Pension Regulations, which are Statutory in nature and lawfully enforceable notwithstanding the yield of the Corpus. **There is a clearly spelt out provision in Regulation 35(1) - Appendix 1 with its amendment done in the year 2003 (duly notified in Government Gazette) that "Basic Pension and Additional Pension, wherever applicable, shall be updated as per formulae given in Appendix 1".**

* Whereas Updation of Pension is regularly done for Central Government pensioners simultaneously with the implementation of each Pay Commission Recommendations and whereas Government of India has already permitted RBI to implement Pension Updation for RBI Pensioners from 1st March, 2019, the same is irrationally being consistently denied by the IBA on one pretext or the other without having any sensitivity and logic to substantiate their standpoint. Because of this inhuman and grossly discriminatory treatment meted out to the Bank Pensioners, many Senior and Super Senior Citizens have left the world without getting their legitimate dues and a few lakhs are waiting to meet the same fate. Hence the necessity of this appeal to your Good Self.

* **The Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that Pension is a Deferred Wage and Wage Revision and Pension Revision are inseparable.** It is imperative that Bank Pensioners should no longer be discriminated and they should be treated at par with Government and RBI Pensioners and we have high hopes on this Government. It is all the more incumbent on the part of Banks to implement Updation of Pension as per Pension Regulations.

* In view of the facts that The Hon'ble Supreme Court has ruled that Pension is a Deferred Wage and Wage Revision and Pension Revision are inseparable, that the Pension Settlement/ Regulations are framed on the lines of Government and RBI Pensioners and that there is a very Robust Pension Fund of more than Rs.4.27 lakh crore including SBI as on March 2024, all such factors provide a strong reason to implement Pension Updation as per the Bank Employees' Pension Regulations 1995 as granted to RBI Pensioners.

2. Special Allowance not being reckoned for the purpose of calculation of Gratuity and computation of Pension for Retirees after 1st November, 2012 onwards:

The Special Allowance which is uniformly, necessarily, and ordinarily paid to all the employees across the cadres is deemed Basic Pay in law and there has been specific verdict of the Apex Court that such allowances are to be computed for

calculating the superannuation benefits. Several representations to all the decision-making Authorities are remaining unheard causing deprivation to a large number of Retirees in the Industry. Hence the cause of appeal arose.

3. Medical Insurance at affordable cost:

The Retirees have given services to the Society and the Nation through the Banking Industry which is the most important vehicle of Economic Transformation. It is so acknowledged and recognised by none other than the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister. Pensioners would therefore, reasonably expect that the Bank would bear the annual premium in full as it is also paid in the case of in-service Employees & Officers including Retired Board Level Appointees. Hence this compassionate Appeal.

4. Disparity in payment of Dearness Relief:

The Pensioners of the Banking Industry are a homogeneous class and there cannot be an artificial division among themselves depending upon their dates of retirement. After the signing of the recent Bipartite Settlement/Joint Note on 08.03.2024, there has been a shifting of the Base year from 1960 to 2016 = 100 (CP Index). But this has been done for all those who retired from 01.11.2022 onwards whereas the old Base year has been retained for the Retirees of prior to the said date. As a result of this, again discrimination is shown in DA to the earlier Retirees subjecting them to get reduced DA and they are suffering for no fault on their part. This is also violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of the country which guarantees equality within a homogeneous group. Hence the cause of appeal arose.

5. Need for creation of a formal consultative forum for periodical exchange of views and redressal of the grievances of Bank Pensioners and Retirees at IBA level:

The Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel and Public Grievances, Law and Justice, impressed upon the officials of MOF and IBA the requirement of Banks' looking into the grievances of the Retirees of the Banking Industry. In pursuance of the said recommendation, the Managing Committee of IBA in its meeting held on 23rd March, 2009 approved the decision of setting up grievance redressal forum at corporate level of each Bank and a circular to this effect was issued on 30th March, 2009. **Under such circumstances, it goes without saying and imperative to set up a grievance redressal mechanism at the level of IBA where the Representatives of Apex Level Pensioners and Retirees Organisations will be called for discussion on their grievances.**

6. Your Government believes in "**Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas**". Bank Pensioners and Retirees should not be excluded and treated as an exception to this Avowed Objective. We request you to kindly look into our above submissions.

7. While doing so we also request you to be considerate and sympathetic to those who are less than Nine Hundred in numbers and missed the **OPTION for Pension AND GIVE THEM** one more opportunity to opt for Pension as a very special case.

Apart from the above, we have other issues of importance which we have not mentioned here but we request the Government to sort out the same through Department of Financial Services and IBA. Hence this Appeal to Your Good Self.

As a Very Responsive and Considerate Government headed by Your Good Self and Your very able Cabinet Colleagues viz., the Hon'ble Home Minister and Hon'ble Finance Minister, we are very certain that you will give Justice to us, as Government of India in fact is the Principal Employer being the owner of the Banks and we the Pensioners and Retirees as Public Servants during our Service tenure implemented all the Policies and Programmes of the Government.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

Full Name:

Mobile:

Email Id:

Confirm