

ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS & RETIREES CONFEDERATION



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

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Circular no 60-25

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

Dear Comrade,

Sub: The Pensioners and the Retirees of Kolkata and adjoining districts respond massively to the agitation call given by CBPRO demanding updation of pension as per Regulations and resolution of all pending demands – thousands of senior citizens throng at the venue in the midst of torrential rains and stormy weather.







Four pictures are of the audience from different angles and the two speakers are Com. D.K. Basu, GS, FSBIPAs & Com. S. Sarkar, GS, AIBPARC.

1. Because of a deep depression in the Bay of Bengal causing incessant rain and stormy weather, there had been grave doubts as to whether the programme would at all be held. The rain gave a temporary respite in the morning and the call of the organization was massively responded.

At 9:45 am, the attendance was 600; at 11am, it was 750 and at 11:45 am, it crossed 1300. The gathering swelled to the road and our volunteers with the help of the police managed to keep the busy road free for traffic by putting guard rails. At every hour, there was slogan shouting for 10 minutes. Because of excessive humidity, one elderly person fainted and he was taken care of by expert comrades. The leader from each affiliate started speaking. At about 12:30 noon, torrential rain again started. Members did not leave the venue and it will be seen from the photograph that at one point of time there had been a few hundred of people with umbrella above head. We had a tarpaulin shed which could accommodate hardly 500 persons and nearly 1000 people had been outside the shed. When the members got drenched badly, the

organizers took the decisions that the number of speakers would have to be cut short under compelling circumstances and the two All India General Secretaries would be speaking.

2. **Com. Dipak Kumar Basu**, General Secretary, FSBIPAs, & Jt. Convenor, CBPRO, spoke at length about the issue of updation of pension. He observed that it was a cruel joke on the part of all the decision-making



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authorities not to allow the updation for more than 30 years although there is a clear cut provision in the Pension Regulations. He felt that creation of a proper forum at IBA level for having dialogue with the apex level Retiree organizations is an urgent necessity. If this consultative forum is allowed, many of the demands could be sorted out through bilateral talks. The issue of special allowance needs to be addressed across the table and it should not be dragged further in the Judicial forum. He observed that CBPRO has already got a tangible shape in different states and in days to come, there will be struggle after struggle under the banner of CBPRO to achieve the long pending demands.

- 3. Com. Suprita Sarkar, GS, AIBPARC, requested all the stake holders to be more sympathetic and sensitive to the issues of the senior citizens because time at their disposal is short and they are dying every day. By maintaining strategic silence, the GOI and the IBA are doing grave injustice to the senior citizens. The Regulation 35(1) is written in an easy language and its meaning is clear and simple. This is unfortunate that different authorities are trying to be deliberately blind to this particular regulation. He calls upon all the apex level Retiree organizations to raise their voice for implementation of Regulation 35(1) with its amendment in 2003. He also assured the members retired on or after 01.11.2012 that the issue of special allowance was being raised by AIBPARC in all available forums. The organization is also watchful about the development in the court of law. He observed that the massive gathering of the day was a testimony to the fact that the senior citizens of the industry have their total faith and trust in CBPRO/AIBPARC.
- 4. The massive gathering was presided over by Com. Tridib Charan Choudhury, President, AIBPARC, West Bengal State Committee. When the rain did not stop even after half an hour, the duration of the meeting had to be shortened under compulsive situation. Still then a few hundred members from metro stations, ferry service stations and other communications had been approaching the venue where the meeting was supposed to continue for more than an hour. The state committee of West Bengal conveyed profuse thanks and gratitude to all the members who had withstood the extremely foul climate to respond to the call of the organization. The organization feels that no struggle will go waste and the ultimate success will come to the senior citizens of the industry. The massive gathering also called upon the GOI and IBA to take a call of the senior citizens on an emergent basis and act without any further loss of time.

With best wishes and regards,

Comradely yours

K.V. Acharya. President, AIBPARC

& Jt. Convenor, CBPRO

General Secretary