

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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Circular no. 72-23

Date: September 04, 2023

Senior Office Bearers

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MOB - 9829015773 10.SHRI S. NAGARAJ MOB - 9986644118

11.SHRI PRAKASH KAROTYA MOB- 9818821395

TREASURER:

SHRI TARUNESH CHATTERJEE, MOB -9051601591 For circulation among members of the Governing Council, State Secretaries, Special Invitees, Advisors, Affiliates, Constituents of CBPRO and Members.

Dear Comrade,

Sub: Pension updation for Bank Retirees.

We reproduce hereunder the text of our letter written on date to The Convenor, UFBU on the above referred subject. The copy of the letter has also been endorsed to all the Constituents of UFBU.

This is for information of members.

With best wishes and regards,

Comradely Yours,

Suprita Sarkar, General Secretary

Quote:

AIBPARC/UFBU/Pension updation/email/2023 Date: September 04, 2023.

Shri Sanjeev K. Bandlish, Convenor, UFBU, Chandigarh

Dear Comrade,

Re: Pension Updation for Bank Retirees.

Ref: UFBU circular: UFBU/2023/12 dated 31.08.2023.

In the aforesaid circular available in public domain, it has been reported on the issue of Updation of Pension as under:

"We also took up the issue of updation of pension for past retirees and also certain improvements in the pension scheme. IBA agreed to discuss the issue".

The group of words " Past Retirees" is highly confusing and it aims at undesirable creation of a bifurcation among the community of Retirees. This is not the first time that



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we have been conveying our note of disapproval over the use of this particular group of words. We feel it an urgent necessity to put on record the events in chronological order:

1. In the Strike Notice dated 13.01.2023 served by different constituents of UFBU, the demand at point no 2 had been mentioned as " Updation of pension for past retirees". The statement of the case in connection with item no 2 referred to the Minutes with workmen unions dated 10.12.2020 and quoted the following:

"IBA is quite sympathetic to the issue especially revision in pension for those who have retired under earlier settlement periods when the emoluments were relatively lesser than at present."

- 2. We had reacted very sharply for obvious reasons and wrote a lengthy letter to Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) and also to The Chairman, IBA making it clear that the demand of pension updation for "past retirees" was unlawful and ridiculous. In the meeting held on 24th January, 2023, as far as our knowledge goes, our letter addressed to The Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) and The Chairman, IBA was an issue of heated discussion and IBA reportedly wanted to have a clarification from UFBU as to what is meant by "past retirees".
- 3. Yourself as the Convenor of UFBU wrote a letter bearing no 2023/02 on 1st February, 2023 wherein you had clarified the issue as under:

We demand that all the existing Pensioners with effect from 01.01.1986 and upto those who retired on or before 31.10.2017 should be covered by updation of pension and the present pension paid to all these Retirees on and from 01.01.1986 to 31.10.2017 be

brought/ updated to the level of pay scales as applicable under the 11th Bipartite Settlement/ 8th Joint Note Signed on 11.11.2020."

This communication of UFBU was clear and transparent and we had reasonable hope to believe that the earlier confusion created by the words "past retirees" stood removed. We felt relieved to think that the issue had been set in the proper perspective. But the communication dated 31.08.2023 again goes back to the point where the journey started.

- 4. In view of what has been told in the foregoing paragraphs, you will surely agree with us that your latest communication on pension updation has sent a shock wave among the Retirees as you have been attempting to create an artificial bifurcation among the Pensioners who are a homogeneous and harmonious group. We make an earnest request to you to please rectify your position in this regard in line with what you have already said in your letter dated 1st February,2023 otherwise your own declared position will contradict your latest communication.
- 5. We also request you to demand Updation of Pension as a matter of Legal Right and Legal Entitlement of the Pensioners in view of the provision made in the Bank Employees Pension Regulations 1995 vide Regulation 35 (1) which was duly amended in 2003 making the said Regulation open ended to cover all Pensioners. The amended Regulation clearly states that Basic Pension and Additional Pension wherever applicable SHALL be updated as per FORMULAE in Appendix 1. Earlier, in 1995, Regulation 35 (1) stated that Basic Pension and Additional Pension wherever applicable WILL be updated to those retired between 1st January 1986 AND 31st October 1987 as per formula in Appendix 1. We request you to note the striking change made in the said Regulation in 2003 by removing the time lag 1st January 1986 to 31st October 1987 and substituting the words from WILL be to SHALL be and Formula to FOMULAE meaning formulas for every periodical wage revisions. Appendix 1 was the formula in the year 1995 and for Government Pensioners the formulas were improved with every subsequent Pay Commission Recommendations and the formulas are also accordingly improved to RBI Pensioners also when updation was given to them from 2012 and now upto 2017 recently.



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Even PNB Management which understood the weight in our Affidavits and Rejoinders citing Regulation 35 (1) in M C SINGLA case in the Hon'ble Supreme Court has decided to engage the Big Face in the Legal World Shri Tushar Mehta Ji for arguing from their side. It is high time UFBU should shed its inhibitions regarding Pension Regulation 35 (1) which is a Statutory Regulation casting upon the Bank Managements the Statutory Obligation of Updating the Pension. Our demand and so also Your Demand should be to implement the Pension Regulation 35 (1) in letter and spirit and give Updation of Pension as is given to RBI Pensioners at least, as our Pension Scheme is as applicable to RBI Pensioners.

We are certain that You will appreciate our concerns and definitely do the Course Correction in your whole approach to the Issue of Pension Updation as explained above by us and ensure Justice to Your Elder Sisters and Brothers who have been denied Justice for more than Three Decades.

We firmly believe that you would realise our anxiety and anguish and act accordingly.

With best wishes,

Comradely yours,

K V. Acharya. President, AIBPARC.

& Jt Convenor, CBPRO

Suprita Sarkar General Secretary

AIBPARC