

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

(Registered under Trade Unions Act 1921-Regd. No. 6908)

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To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 26 dated 28.02.2017 issued by General Secretary, All India State Bank Officers' Federation, the contents of which are self-explicit.

With revolutionary greetings,

Soumya Datta
(General Secretary)

To all our Affiliates / Members:

INDUSTRY WIDE STRIKE ON 28TH FEBRUARY, 2017 TOTAL A GRAND SHOW OF UNITY AND SOLIDARITY BANKING INDUSTRY COMES TO A STAND STILL

Over one million employees and officers all over the country struck work on 28th February 2017 as a mark of protest against the ill-advised moves of the Government in regard to failure to recover large corporate NPA's, moves to privatize the public sector banks, delay in the commencement of negotiations on salary revision, not resolving the various legitimate demands of the Bank Employees and Officers long pending with the Indian Banks Association. The banks have virtually closed their shutters and no employees and officers turned to the work. The participation in the strike was enmasse. The United Forum of Bank Unions had served the strike notice after having exhausted all the opportunities available to find an amicable solution through the process of negotiation. The Government failed to take cognizance of the frustration of the workforce in the banking industry and have been making all out attempts to privatize the public sector banks and to reduce the existing number of Public Sector Banks by denying the required capital to them. The UFBU wanted that stringent measures should be adopted for recovery of NPA's from the large scale corporate units so that the capital position of the banks can be strengthened. Unfortunately, the Government has not come out with any proposal for stringent recovery procedure.

2. The other issues raised by UFBU included the immediate commencement of the negotiation on salary revision. The IBA is delaying the commencement of talks on the grounds that all the banks have not submitted the mandate to them for the commencement of the negotiations.

There are number of issues pending with them in regard to the last salary revision including the improvement in the superannuation benefits to the Pensioners and Family Pensioners. The UFBU was, hence, left with no other option than to proceed with the strike action. The last minute efforts on the part of the Central Labor Commissioner to intervene in the matter failed since, they were not in a position to find an amicable solution due to the failure on the part of Government and IBA to come out with any relief on the issues raised by the United Forum of Bank Unions.

3. The reports received from all circles indicates that all over the country massive dharanas, demonstrations, rallies and processions were taken by the members and the leaders of the constituents of the UFBU who addressed mammoth gatherings all over the country. The metro cities, the State Capitals, the District Head Quarters, the Towns and Tahsils saw a huge gathering of the members of during the demonstrations. There was a wide coverage by the media both electronic and print media about the massive success of the strike call.

4. We are happy that our leaders from the affiliates of the Federation took lead in organizing the strike in a grand manner all over the country. The affiliates have sent reports about the successful conduct of the demonstrations and rallies in front of the Head Offices, Zonal Offices, Branches etc., all over the country. The members were advised to be in readiness for greater struggle in case the Government and IBA fails to take the protest strike action and its message in right spirit.

5. Comrades, it is just a beginning and we have a long way to go. We may have to escalate the agitation in order to make the Government and IBA to understand the seriousness of the issues involved and to get solution to all our demands raised in the strike notice. Hence, we appeal to all our members to be in readiness for further course of action at a short notice.

With warm greetings,

(Y.SUDARSHAN)
GENERAL SECRETARY

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