

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

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

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Circular No. 17/2016

Date : 01.05.2016

To All Members (Please Circulate)

MAY DAY- 2016

May 1st, International Workers' Day, commemorates the historic struggle of working people throughout the world. As workers, we must recognize and observe May Day not only for its historical significance, but also as a time to organize around issues of vital importance of today for the working.

Karl Marx had observed "....But out of the death of slavery a new vigorous life sprang. The first fruit of the Civil War was an agitation for the 8-hour day – a movement which ran with express speed from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from New England to California."

The historical May Day is an occasion to remember the sacrifices of the ordinary men and women who made extraordinary efforts to curtail the working hours to 8 hours a day for workers instead of the sunrise-to-sunset working policy. May Day thus not only commemorates the struggles of the past in demand for a better work environment but also is an occasion to remind the society that the massive working class cannot be suppressed, tormented and subjugated. It is the evolving fire which wounds as well as heals. If it can build it can also rise up against injustice.

The May Day is all the more relevant in this era when the trade unions of our country are under attack from the capitalist forces. The members of the working class are being constantly oppressed in the name of growth, profit and liberalisation. In the name of 'reforms' various acts are on the cusp of amendment to enable the capitalists to pursue their goals of exploitation of the working class to maximise their profits.

Comrades, we will be observing this May Day as Anti-Privatisation Day & Anti-Merger Day to protest the evil designs of the Government to dismantle the Public Sector - the life line of the nation. In the near future we have to prepare ourselves for a long struggle to thwart the ulterior motives of the Government to destabilise the Nationalised Banks and also to spread the awareness amongst common people the need to save the Public Sector.

It is after a prolonged struggle we have achieved the 2nd and 4th Saturday off, a precursor to the ultimate goal of achieving 5 day week as well as regulated working hours in the Banking industry. Yet, the fruits of the battle cannot be enjoyed by many of the workforce as our members are being compelled to work on many holidays and Sundays in the backdrop of staff shortage and mounting work pressure. While we have our duties to our esteemed organisation, it is also expected that there should be a work-life balance, which unfortunately is not happening.

Let us take a pledge that we shall work with dignity and self-esteem and we shall live our lives with head high. We shall respect and also expect the same in return. We must have the courage to stand up for our rights and protest against any unwarranted attack on our basic dignity and rights. Our silence should not be misconstrued as our weakness. Remember, there is always a lull before a raging storm.

March on Comrades. Be the West Wind that will blow away the dead leaves of greed and avarice and will usher in the spring of liberty, equality and fraternity. Shun the prophets of doom and raise your voice against the echoes of injustice, humiliation and suppression.

March on Comrades to demand for our fundamental right to work with dignity; our right to be respected; our right to be treated like a human being and our right to not to become a machine in the network of crony capitalists.

Rise up, Comrades. And ponder:

Do we live to work, or do we work to live?

Long live Workers' Solidarity.

Long Live our Struggle.

With revolutionary greetings,



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