

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

(Registered under Trade Unions Act 1926-Regd. No. 6908)

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To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 75 dated 24.07.2018 issued by the 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:

STATE BANK OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, LUCKNOW TRIENNIAL GENERAL COUNCIL A GRAND SUCCESS MAMMOTH GATHERING – SHOW OF SOLIDARITY AND UNITY

"Atalbihari Vajapayee Scientific Convention Centre, Lucknow" the venue of the Triennial General Council of State Bank of India Officers' Association, Lucknow Circle was overflowing with massive participation of the members coming from all over the state of Uttar Pradesh.

2. The Inaugural Session was organized in a grand manner. The hall was buzzing with the continuous slogan raising by the enthusiastic members present in a large numbers in the auditorium. The dignitaries who were invited to the dais included Shri. Shivapratap Shukla, State Minister of Finance, Government of India who was kind enough to accept our invitation and to inaugurate the same, Smt. Rashmi Prasad, General Manager, Network-I, and Shri. C.B.K. Singh, CDO, Lucknow Circle.

3. The entire leadership of the Confederation and the Federation along with the sister organizations were present on the dais. They are: Com.Subramaniam, Chairman, AISBOF; Com. Ramkumar Sabapathy, General Secretary, AISBOF, Com. Soumya Datta, General Secretary, AIBOC, Com.Y.Sudarshan, Chairman, AIBOC, Com. Ajay Saxena and Pawan Kumar, the President and the General Secretary, SBIOA, Lucknow Circle, Com.D.T.Franco Rajendra Dev, Former General Secretary, SBIOA, Chennai Circle and Former President of AISBOF, Com.Dinesh Chandra, General Secretary, Pensioners Association, SBIOA, Lucknow Circle, Com.K.K.Singh, General Secretary, State Bank of India Staff Union, SBIOA Lucknow Circle, and General Secretaries and Presidents of various circles graced the dais.

4. The lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest along with all those who were present on the dais indicated symbolically the commencement of the Conference. The dignitaries were earlier welcomed with bouquet by the leaders of the Circle Association. The proceedings commenced with Ganapathi Vandana, a dance programme by Kumari Lovely and Kumari Richa.

5. Com.Pawan Kumar, the general Secretary of the Circle Association extended a warm welcome to all the dignitaries on the dais. He also expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister Shri.Shivapratap Shukla, State Minister for Finance, Government of India for his acceptance to attend the General Council and to inaugurate the same despite his busy schedule. Thereafter he briefly covered the activities of the Circle Association and the issues that are presently confronting the officers working in the Circle and the need for immediate resolution of those issues.

6. Com.Y.Sudarshan, the Chairman of AIBOC, speaking on the occasion expressed happiness to be part of the function. He also took the opportunity to convey appreciation about the various initiatives of the Government for development of the country. All these initiatives have energized the younger generation and has invoked a lot of confidence and conviction in the nation building efforts of the Government. But the backbones behind implementation of all these schemes are the Public Sector Banks in general State Bank of India in particular, he said. The contribution of the Public Sector Banks and the officers of State Bank of India in the implementation of the various schemes and plans of the Central Government and ensuring that the benefits reaches the masses and are remarkable. The Officers have toiled day and night in ensuring the success of all the major schemes such as Jan Dhan, the Demonetization, the various loan schemes etc., he said.

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7. He also drew the attention of the Minister as well as the members present in the General Council that the banking industry is passing through a highly critical period. The issue of reforms in the financial sector has affected the performance of the Public Sector Banks; the Government has been attempting to introduce a series of measures affecting the interest of the common man as well as the banking industry. The recommendations of various committees are not in the interest of the survival of the banking industry.

8. He also touched upon the ill effects of FRDI Bill and its impact on the confidence of the depositors putting their money at stake.

9. Yet another issue was the attack on the officers in different parts of the country. The instances reported from Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Lucknow and other parts of the country have resulted in tremendous tension amongst the officers working in the banking industry. Such instances are bound to affect the morale of the officers and the Government should come out with appropriate measures to protect those officers. The pressures created by CBI, CVC etc., through arrests of the officers indiscriminately and publicly condemning such officers is affecting the morale of the officer's fraternity in the banks. There is a need to rectify the situation through appropriate measures stated Com.Y.Sudarshan.

10. He also dealt at length on the issue of the salary revision with particular reference to the delay in the conclusion of the salary revision. The absence of full mandate from some of the bigger banks. The need to concede the demand of the AIBOC for holidays on all Saturdays as agreed in the course of earlier negotiations. The pending superannuation benefits such as the family pension which is very pathetic, the extension of the benefit of 100% Dearness Relief to the retirees prior to 1.11.2002, improvement in the pension benefits, the improvement in the commutation in particular the inferior formula in SBI needs to be scrapped etc. He also referred to the long pending issues of Compassionate Appointments, the issue of extension of enhanced Gratuity ceiling to all from 1.1.2016, Appointment of Officer Directors on the Banks, the need augment the recruitment in the banks in view of the large scale retirements in the banking industry in a couple of days etc.

11. He appealed to the Minister for his intervention on all these matters and to ensure appropriate relief to the officers working in the bank.

12. Com.Dinesh Chandra, General Secretary of Pensioners Association – thanked the Hon'ble Minister for accepting the invitation of the Circle Association and being present in the General Council. He explained at length the issues affecting the retirees in the banking industry with particular reference to the low pension, the low rate of family pension, the inferior commutation etc., He desired that the Pension should be improved so that the retirees are able to live a dignified lives. He also made reference to the Medical requirement of the retirees at their old age and was of the view that the Medical Benefit Scheme should be financed by the banks as the premiums are so high that the pensioners are not able to meet the same. He requested the honourable minister to look into the issues of family pension and the dearness allowance payable to the earlier retirees in order to enable them to lead a dignified life.

13. Shri. Shivapratap Shukla, Honourable State Minister of Finance, Government of India, delivering his inaugural address extended a warm welcome to all officers to the SBI Convention hall opened by Former Prime Minister Shri. Atalbihari Vajapayeeji, and wished the participants all the best. He thanked Shri.Y.Sudarshan, Chairman of AIBOC for sharing the information with the participants in the General Council about all the schemes introduced by the present Government at the Centre and the role played by the officers in their smooth implementation. He also extensively covered some of the initiatives taken by the Government to help the common man to utilize the banking facilities such as the opening of the account with zero balance, the introduction of Jan Dhan Yojana etc., which are beneficial to the common man. A number of initiatives taken by the Government reaches the common directly and made reference to the scheme of Mudra Yojana where more than 13 crore people have been able to get employment. He also referred some of the initiatives of the Central Government which are directly beneficial to the younger generation in the country.

14. He acknowledged the role of the bankers in implementation of the various schemes including the demonetization. It helped the Government to mobilize 1 lac crore deposit in the banking stream. The Government is also helping the banks in the matter of infusion of capital with its proposal to come out with equity infusion to the extent of 2.11 lac crore etc. He acknowledged the high morale of the officers in the bank and they are held with great respect in the society. The people believe that the bank employees are capable of handling the deposits of the people in a honest way and the customers also trust the officers to a great extent. He condemned the arrest of the senior executives from Bank of Maharashtra and assured that he will look into the matter and issue appropriate instructions to the concerned.

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15. He personally felt about the wage difference of bank employees with that of the Government employees and stated that the teachers are getting better wages in comparison with the bank employees and assured that he would take up the matter with the Government.

16. He assured that the Government is fully conscious of the issues of all sections of the society. It is the motto of the Government "Sab ka Sath Sab Ka vikas" and hence the issues of the bankers will also be taken and their interest will also be protected he assured. He suggested that Shri.Y.Sudarshan, may visit the Ministry along with the details so that he would be able to help him in resolving the problems related to the banking industry.

17. Smt. Rashmi Prasad, General Manager, explained the current banking situation and the difficulties that the industry is passing through. She also highlighted the importance of technology in the banking and the need to get acquainted with the changes that are taking place on a day to day basis. She also observed that the 5 days week will help in achieving the work-life balance in the banks and the officers are able to perform better in the banks. She wished all success for the Genral Council.

18. The leaders on the dais, Com. D.T.Franco Rajendra Dev, Com.Y.Sudarshan, Com.G.Subramaniam, Com.Soumya Datta have felicitated all the retirees on the occasion. They also felicitated all the Office-bearers of Lucknow Circle on the occasion.

19. Com. D.T.Franco Rajendra Dev, the former General Secretary of AIBOC and President of the Federation paid rich compliments and congratulated Com.Pawan Kumar and his team for their re-election in the recently concluded elections. He also thanked and wished Com.Soumya Datta and Com.Ram Sabapathy on their election to the post of the President and General Secretaries of AISBOF and for shouldering the higher responsibilities. He desired that a nationwide celebration on the Nationalization of Banks be observed on 19th July in a befitting manner. He referred to the international agencies such as IMF and World Bank and their motto of privatization of banks and the need to defend the banks from their attack. He also covered exhaustively the scenario prevailing in the country and also with reference to the banking industry. He appealed to the members to actively anticipate in the Save Public Sector Banks campaign

20. Com.Ramkumar Sabapathy, the General Secretary of the Federation congratulated all the office-bearers who have been re-elected to the Association, the team led by Com.Pawan Kumar and Saxena. He also congratulated the Circle for holding the elections in time and desired all the circles to hold the elections in time and uphold the democratic principle. He assured to take initiative in resolving all the pending issues such as Medical Reimbursement upto 100% in respect of dependents, implementation of the REMBS or rather its re-introduction for the benefit of the retirees in the bank. The issues which are pending at the corporate centre such as inter-circle transfer, strict implementation of work life balance instructions of the bank, the decision of the bank to extend the legal aid to the members and their families in case of the cases filed against them by the customers etc., He also referred to some of the issues connected with the demonetization and assured the house that he will follow-up all those issues in an effective manner. He also stated that unless the IBA receives 100% mandate the negotiations will not resume

21. He thanked the Lucknow Circle Association for inviting him and giving him the opportunity of addressing the members in the General Council.

22. Com.K.K.Singh, the General Secretary of Staff Union expressed his happiness over the large participation and congratulated the willing team of the circle association. He also assured the house that all out efforts will be made to ensure a fair and equitable wage revision. He also highlighted the importance of united approach in resolving the number of issues. He insisted that RBI public the list of borrowers and makes it available to the media.

23. Com.Soumya Datta, President of the AISBOF and the General Secretary of AIBOC congratulated the Circle association for the wonderful arrangement and the excellent manner in which the General Council was being conducted. He also congratulated all those who have come out successful in the recently conducted elections. The attitude of the Central Government towards the bank executives and the PCA experiment on Dena Bank is a legal attack to finish the PSB's he said. He assured that he would take up all the issues in the next UFBU meeting and chalk out appropriate future course of action to pursue all the issues that are pending before the IBA and the Government. He desired that the Circle Association carry the message to the society at large and take them into confidence on the issue of opposing privatization of banks etc. He requested the members to maintain utmost unity and come together to fight against the ill-advised moves of the Government to privatize the banks. The fight should continue in regard to the Save Public Sector Campaign he declared.

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24. Com.Ajay Sexena, President of the Circle Association proposed a vote of thanks.

25. Comrades, it was a wonderful conglomeration of the membership of Lucknow Circle coming from all parts of the Circle to attend the historic General Council. The conference was a grand success. The deliberations and the camaraderie that was prevailing throughout the General Council will remain green in the memory of all the members who were present on the occasion for a long time to come. Let us wish and hope that the newly elected leaders will carry forward the banner of the Association for greater heights of glory in the days to come. All the best to team Lucknow lead by Com.Ajay Saxena and Com.Pawan Kumar.

With warm greetings,



(Y.SUDARSHAN)
GENERAL SECRETARY