

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. 156 dated 21.12.2018 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:

NATIONWIDE ONE DAY TOKEN STRIKE A GRAND SUCCESS BANKING INDUSTRY VIRTUALLY CLOSED KUDOS TO OUR MEMBERS FOR TOTAL PARTICIPATION

21st December 2018 is yet another glorious day in the history of the All India Bank Officers' Confederation which stood for the protection of the interest of the entire officers' fraternity in the country. The salary revision talks are stuck up due to the adamant attitude of the IBA and the negotiations have become a frustrating exercise with IBA taking a negative stand on almost all the issues. The fractured mandate remains a major issue. The issue of merger, the issues of IDBI Bank and Catholic Syrian Bank Officers are the issues on which IBA is refusing to resolve the same. The demand for the reasonable enhancement in the offer of IBA towards salary revision, the demand for scrapping of old NPS and reintroduction of old Pension Scheme the improvement in the superannuation benefits of the retirees are high on the agenda of the Confederation. The sinister design of the IBA and the Government is to break the unity of the Officers' fraternity in the banking industry by dividing them as Scale I to III one group and Scale IV and above as the other group in the matter of the salary revision in the current bipartite negotiations. It was not the first time that such a stand was taken by the IBA and the Government and on the earlier occasion good sense prevailed and they had to reverse their approach and give a total mandate to the Indian Banks' Association. However, this time some of the bigger banks have raised a similar issue in the current negotiations. The Confederation made all efforts to convince the Bank Managements for giving unconditional & full mandate for IBA to negotiate on salary revision. The efforts of the leadership of AIBOC to convince both the IBA and the Government till the last moment with the intervention of CLC and though the CLC suggested to the IBA and the Government to adopt a flexible approach to resolve the present crisis, the IBA backed by some of the bigger banks and the Government did not change their stand forcing the AIBOC to put through the strike action.

2. Comrades, it was a grand show of strength and a message to the Government and other agencies that the Officers are united and they cannot be divided through their ulterior motive of de-unionization of the officers through divide and rule policy. We have been receiving reports from all parts of the country that the strike has been a grand success. The massive demonstrations in front of the head quarters of the various banks in the State Capital, the Metro-cities, the District and Taluk headquarters as well as almost all big centres is heartwarming. The reports reaching the headquarters of the Federation and the Confederation indicates that the members took out rallies, the processions and held dharanas in a large numbers attracting the attention of the Public as well media. The electronic media also gave a very good coverage to the strike action by the members of the Confederation.

3. We are also happy to note that the fraternal support has been extended by all the trade unions in particular the NCBE & other constituents of the United Forum of Bank Unions and they have also extended their greetings on the occasion and conveyed their total support to the striking members of AIBOC. The unions from the Public Sector Units, the Confederation of Central Government officers & the National Confederation of Officers Association(NCOA), the Pensioners organizations have extended their fraternal support to our struggle.

Soumya Datta
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4. At the headquarters of the Federation, the mammoth gathering in front of the State Bank of India, Local Head Office, St.Marks' Road is a militant message to the IBA and the Government. The demonstrations commenced with the slogan raising by the members who were present on the occasion. Com. S.K.Srinivas General Secretary SBIOA (K) and Jt. General Secretary AISBOF who was in charge of organizing the demonstration, welcomed all the members for the demonstration and also explained at length the various issues involved in the strike action and appealed to all the members to be readiness for the further struggle

5. Com. Ramkumar Sabapathy, the Senior Vice President of AIBOC, and the General Secretary of AISBOF in his address elaborated the grounds on which the Confederation had to challenge the attitude of the IBA and the Government and go ahead with one Day Protest Strike as all avenues for an amicable resolution of the stalemate has failed. He also explained at length the negative attitude of the IBA in considering the reasonable demand of the Confederation since the larger banks are aiming at introduction of Performance Linked Pay based on the performance of Banks. The Confederation consists of the membership from Scale I to the top most officials of the bank. The Confederation has the responsibility of defending the job security as well as the right to decide about the compensation of all the scales and grades without any discrimination. Hence, we are justified in our agitation and we will continue until the goals are reached, declared Com.Ramkumar Sabapathy, amidst thunderous applause and the strong slogans to send a warning signal to the IBA and the Government that the Officers' cannot be silenced through the dubious methods.

6. The leaders and the former leaders of the Confederation who spoke on the occasion included Com. Jagadish, com. Tapas Ghosh, Com. Madhusudhan, Com. G.D. Nadaf, com. B.S. Ravindra, Com. Kiran.

7. A large number of Pensioners and Family Pensioners' were also present on the occasion. On behalf of the Pensioners and Family Pensioners fraternity Com. A. N. Krishna Murthy spoke on the occasion.

9. We are now moving to the 26th Strike under the banner of UFBU – it is for the IBA and the Government to take note of the resentment of the bank Officers & employees and to resolve all the issues in case they wish to avoid further confrontation. Let us be prepared to make our 26th Strike also a grand success for the bank employees in the country.

10. Comrades, the struggle will continue until all the issues raised by the Confederation is resolved. We should be prepared for a greater struggle and sacrifice in order to ensure a fair deal to the Officers community in the banking industry. The leadership of the Confederation will meet shortly and take appropriate decisions in regard to the further course of action. In the meantime, we appeal to all our members to be in full readiness to tackle the issue and take our struggle to a logical end.

With revolutionary greetings,



RAMKUMAR SABAPATHY
GENERAL SECRETARY