

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)

THE 36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (BENGAL CIRCLE)
ADMINISTRATIVE ZONAL COMMITTEE, SILIGURI
HELD ON 22nd DECEMBER 2019 (SUNDAY) AT HOTEL TOURIST INN, SILIGURI

The 36th Annual General Meeting of Administrative Zonal Committee, Siliguri was held on 22nd December, 2019 at Hotel Tourist Inn Siliguri. The meeting commenced at 10.00 A.M. At the outset, the Chief Guest, Shri D V Gutte, Dy. General Manager (B&O), Administrative Office, Siliguri, Comrade B Sukkhaiah, General Secretary of SBIOA Hyderabad Circle and Vice President of AISBOF, the Guest Honour, Circle President Comrade Asitava Kundu, the undersigned, Chief Regional Secretary and Zonal President of the Module and other dignitaries, Special guests and the undersigned were invited to hoist the flag and to offer floral tribute at the Shahid Bedi in the gracious presence of above 550 vibrant members. The Entire Central Committee leadership was also present on the occasion. They visited the Photo Gallery showcasing the activities of the Association during 2019.

OPEN SESSION:

The Open Session was compered by Comrade Priya Tamang and Comrade Ankita Chakraborty. The meeting commenced with a special significance in the backdrop of "Golden Jubilee celebration of Bank Nationalization", "Golden Jubilee year of Indefinite Strike of 1969", "Save the Nature" and of course with special thrust to "Save Public Sectors Save India"

The anchors invited on the dais Comrade Debanta Goswami, President, AZC, Siliguri, Comrade Utpal Dutta, Chief Regional Secretary, Administrative Zonal Committee, Siliguri, Com Asitava Kundu, Circle President, Shri D. V. Gutte, DGM (B&O), Chief Guest of the meeting, Comrade B. Sukkhaiah General Secretary, SBIOA Hyderabad Circle, the undersigned and other leaders and they were heartily welcomed with khadas, the traditional scarf used as good gesture/wishes.

The ceremonial lamp was lighted by the dignitaries followed by inaugural songs presented by team "SRIJAN", Siliguri Wing. The entire house was enthralled with Bob Marley's revolutionary song "Get up Stand up....stand up for your right" presented by the band of Comrades from the North Bengal Hills.

Comrade Utpal Dutta, Chief Regional Secretary, in his welcome address extended hearty welcome with deep sense of gratitude to all the dignitaries for their gracious presence in the meeting. He also extended warm welcome to the Veterans of SBIOA (Bengal Circle), who built the organization, brick by brick, infused passion and militancy and made the mighty and militant organization, Comrade Dutta heartily welcomed all the 550 plus members for attending the meeting even from remotest corner of Sikkim hill to Forest area in boarder area of Bangladesh.

Comrade Dutta in his speech touched on the issues of privatization of Public sectors specially Pubic Sector banks, merger and draconian amendment of Labour Act. He appealed to avoid plastic and save the Nature.

Shri Sudhansu Mukherjee, Secretary, SBIOA Multi-State Co-Operative Credit Society, then conducted the felicitation programme for meritorious students from poor family backgrounds and also meritorious wards of our members who secured at least 60 per cent marks in Madhyamik, Higher Secondary, Degree Course or equivalent examination. Mrs Ram Maya Thapa widow of Late Comrade Jai Bahadur Thapa was handed over with a cheque of Rs.1.50 lakh from SBIOA (Bengal Circle) and Rs.2.50 lakh from SBIOA Multi State Co-op Credit Society by the General Secretary.

Shri D V Gutte, DGM (B&O) of Siliguri Module in his speech appreciated the benevolent activities of the Association and also its commitment towards the development of the bank and the society as a whole. He said that during his 3 ½ years tenure in the Circle, he had actively participated and even donated blood in Blood Donation camp organised by the Association. While acknowledging the support of the Association functionaries, he applauded all the members for their commendable contributions in achieving the overall budget and making the Siliguri Module to achieve excellence in all parameters. However, he expressed his concern over the poor availability of ATMs managed by outsourced agencies. He emphasized on AGRI and SME business for economic development of the country. He urged the Branch functionaries not to compromise with the quality and compliance of laid down norms of the Bank for the sake of gamering business. He further reiterated

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importance of updating of knowledge in credit else the officials may burn their fingers in credit area despite working very hard and they should always remain vigilant against possible frauds. While speaking on "Work-Life Balance", Shri Gutte said that he does not believe in calling officers on Sundays and holidays or sending messages after 8 pm and till 9 am. "Work-Life balance" is very important and should remain fine tuned.

Comrade Sukkhaiah, the Guest of honour, expressed in his address to the house his happiness to be present in the meeting. He said that Annual General Meeting is the place for get-together of the members from different corners of the region and it is the convergence of comrades. Comrade Sukkhaiah applauded the vibrant leadership and members of Bengal Circle and said that Bengal Circle is the birth place of the active unionism and Association activities.

He welcomed and appreciated the DGM's call on maintaining the Work-Life balance and stressed upon others to follow the practice. He pointed out that frequent calls would rather create unnecessary pressure leading to job undone and incomplete. He strongly urged upon the members to show solidarity and be united in the fight of the Association against the Government's motive behind bank's merger and ultimately privatization. He urged upon members to oppose the unethical move of the Government to de-stabilize the Banking Industry. He stressed on creating awareness of the evils of banks' merger and the importance of PSBs amongst the general public. We have to fight tooth and nail for "Save Public Sector Bank-Save the Country". He expressed his concern over the rise of NPA. He said that big corporate loans sanctioned by the top brass of the bank under the pressure of the Government are responsible for the rise of NPA.. He once again thanked Comrade Utpal Dutta and his team for inviting him to such a wonderful meeting. With the speech of Comrade Sukkhaiah, the open session came to an end.

BUSINESS SESSION

Comrade Debanta Goswami, Zonal President took over the proceedings of the Business Session and administered the pledge to the gathering and read out the notice of the meeting. Thereafter, he requested Comrade Utpal Dutta, CRS, to present his report in the house for discussion and approbation.

Then Comrade Utpal Dutta, Chief Regional Secretary presented the Secretary's Report before the House.

On being invited by the President, Comrade Surajit Chakraborty, Zonal Treasurer, presented the audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2019 for approval in the house.

Comrade Eden Wangdi Gyatsho read out a resolution regarding restoration of Compassionate Appointment and stopping outsourcing which was passed in the house unanimously.

Thereafter, members were invited by the President of the meeting to express their views on the Chief Regional Secretary's Reports and the Statement of Accounts for the year 2019 and also highlight the problems they are facing in the bank and also their suggestion, if any.

Comrade Tathagatha Mukherjee (Town Br. Siliguri) appreciated the Secretary's Report as well as the Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for the year 2019 and approved/seconded the reports. He felt extremely delighted to find the article on Climate change and Air pollution. He also touched on a few issues on Circle Transfer Policy.

Comrade Bikash Ranjan Biswas (Malda branch) supported the Secretary's report and Treasurer's statement of account. Comrade Biswas appreciated the use of paper posters and other display materials in the meeting premises instead of plastic posters/flex. He raised his voice against mis-selling of products. He stressed on sharing of difficulties with other fellow colleague. He once again thanked all the leadership who had stood beside the members in times of trouble and crisis.

Comrade Sanjay Kumar (Panjipara branch) praised and supported both the Secretary's report and Treasurer's Statement of accounts. He further urged all members to remain united and should voice for restoration of compassionate appointment and stoppage of engagement of outsourcing agency. He suggested forming a technical team for supporting the branches on digital issues.

Comrade David Barui, (Dabgram branch) felt that frequent Login-day of a particular product creates undue pressure on the officer members and sometimes leads to mis-selling.

Comrade Souvik Biswas, (Nishiganj branch) appreciated both the Secretary's report and Treasurer's Statement of Accounts and approved the same. He praised the Module leadership for organising AGM in such a grand manner every year. Comrade Biswas raised his voice against opening of branches for replenishment of cash in ATMS on 2nd and 4th Saturdays and urged the leadership to look into the matter. He also talked about the mis-selling of insurance and MF products to the customers.

Comrade Utpal Dutta, CRS thanked all the speakers for raising certain important issues before the house which will be taken up with the appropriate authority with all seriousness for their resolution and also for supporting the Secretary's report, Audited statement of Account as well as the Resolutions. He assured that the placement of 26 officers to their place of domiciles has been taken up at right earnest and expected to be resolved by June next year. He added that the issue has been referred to Central Committee for consideration while reviewing the Circle Transfer Policy. He further

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added that the Secretary's report itself is the voice of the Module and its members and acknowledged the contribution of Comrade Lakpa Tshering Yolmo, AGS in Charge, Siliguri and others in compiling the same. He also acknowledged the contributions of a huge number of organizing committee members involved in the AGM 2019. He mentioned about 20 Sub-committees formed for AGM 2019. He urged members to raise their voice against injustice and to remain sincere, responsible towards the organisation and the Institution as well. Com. Dutta warned not to go for mis-sell just to fulfill the target. We should not compromise the customers' priority in the Bank.

All the members present in the meeting unanimously passed the Secretary's report, Resolutions and the Audited statement of Account.

Comrade L. T. Yolmo, AGS, Siliguri Module urged members to contribute whatever small way they can. He requested the members to emulate the passion and involvement of the SBIOA Seniors who made it convenient to attend/respond on each and every occasion when called upon by the Association. He further urged members to work selflessly and contribute for the Association to make it a strong one. Comrade Yolmo said that members should participate whole heartedly during strike called by the Association and desist from passing the day as holiday.

Thereafter following the retired leaders of SBIOA (Bengal Circle) were felicitated :

1. Comrade (Ms) Raktima Soren Former Vice-President
2. Comrade Debashis Mondal Former Dy. Genl. Secretary.
3. Comrade Debranjana Dey, Central Committee Member, who will be retiring on 31.12.2019.
4. Comrade Kishore Kumar Dey, Asstt.Genl.Secretary. (Finance), who will be retiring on 31.01.2020.
5. Comrade Ujjwal Kumar Das, Asstt.Genl.Secretary.(Howrah), who will be retiring on 31.01.2020.
6. Comrade Ashim Das, Zonal President, Bidhan Nagar. who will be retiring on 31.01.2020.
7. Comrade Pradip Bhattacharya, Regional President, Region-V. who will be retiring on 31.12.2019.

Comrade Sisir Ghosh of Medical Team at Kolkata and Comrade Chandan Choudhury looking after the smooth functioning of Guest House of Siliguri were also felicitated for their wholehearted and selfless contributions.

Comrade Debranjana Dey, Central Committee Member shared his journey at the mighty association and requested all members to be united and keep the faith in the Circle leadership.

Comrade Asitava Kundu, Circle President, SBIOA (Bengal Circle), in his speech praised the AZC team and its members for organizing this meeting in a grandeur manner and participation of comrades from different corners of the Module. He appreciated and welcomed the call by the Module DGM regarding "no official calls/messages after 8.00 p.m. till 9.00 a.m., maintaining "work-life balance" and avoiding mis-selling. He said that the same issues are being raised by the General Secretary in every meeting. He on behalf of Circle Association acknowledged and applauded the commendable hard work, sincerity and dedication of Comrade Utpal Dutta, towards strengthening the Association and enhancing the image and reputation of the Association. He added that this is the last AGM of Comrade Dutta as CRS as he will retire on superannuation on 29.02.2020, but his legacy will always be remembered. Comrade Kundu briefed the House on the Golden Jubilee celebration of Bank's nationalisation and at the same time remembered the sacrifices made by the leaders and members during the indefinite strike at that time. He also touched on Govt. move for privatisation of Public Sector banks, merger of weak banks, shutting down of BSNL by forcing its employees to take VRS and closure of many offices of Income Tax department. He said that 25th May 2019 was the historic day in the history of SBIOA Bengal Circle as the Circle Transfer Policy was formulated and circularized. He added that it was possible due to relentless persuasion of the Association. Another pertinent issue that Comrade President talked about was the increase in the percentage of opted out eligible employees from the promotion exercise to next higher grade. He further informed the other demands like updating of pension, family pension, restoration of compassionate appointment as per the criteria fixed by IBA, 5 day week etc. He urged all members to remain united and participate whole heartedly in all the agitation programmes called by the Association in future.

The undersigned in his speech applauded the vibrant team AZC, Siliguri for organizing the meeting successfully. He appraised the House regarding the implementation of FI & MM by the bank. He further added that a letter by the Federation General Secretary has since been sent to the management about the implementation of the implementation of FI & MM. He further appraised in detail about the functioning and vertical of FI & MM .

With this, Comrade Debanta Goswami, Zonal President declared the end of the Meeting and wished all the members a very happy and prosperous New Year, 2020. He congratulated the vibrant comrades who made this meeting a huge success.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks & rendition of the National anthem by all.

With revolutionary greetings,



Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay
(General Secretary)

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