

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

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

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Circular No. 56/2023

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To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 25 dated 09.04.2023 issued by the General Secretary, All India State Bank Officers' Federation, the contents of which are self-explicit.

With revolutionary greetings,

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay
(General Secretary)

COM L. V. SUBRAMANIAM

The Doyen of Officers' Movement bids adieu



It has been utmost difficult at the first place to believe and then to let you know about the sadful departure of Com. L.V Subramaniam, the champion who dedicated his entire life for the cause of the Trade Union Movement and ensured a better place for the officers of the Banking Industry to serve in. The relentless journey that started with a blessed dawn that heralded the advent of a champion on the blissful day of 3rd of February 1934, with the gallant making his first-cry; has drawn its culmination with his eternal sleep on the fateful day of 8th of April 2023. The colossal personality, a born leader, Comrade Subramaniam shall however remain immortal with his accomplishments that shall glitter forever bright and shall continue inspiring his uncountable followers in the journey of the Trade Union Movement in the Banking Sector. The Champion of Champions, Com. Subramaniam, shall always shine brighter in the galaxy of Trade Union leaders for being the founder General Secretary of AISBOF (1965-1974), first General Secretary of AICOBBO (1974-1985) and many more remarkable achievements that makes his kitty pompous yet his demeanour remains humble.

2. Popularly known as LV, the connoisseur of the trade union movement was born in a small village of Kalpathi, in the Polakkad district of Kerala, he received his early education from a local Malayalam medium school in his village and then he moved to Chennai for his higher studies. He started his career with the Imperial Bank of India when he joined there as a clerk on 2nd of November, 1951, at the tender age of 18 years only. Comrade Subramaniam is survived by his spouse, a retired General Manager of SBI, and his daughter. We from AISBOF, place our flag half-mast while expressing our deepest sense of commiserations for the family and wish the almighty bestows them with all the strength during this trying times making them bear with the unbearable loss.

3. The uncompromising attitude of this bohemian leader first came in fore when the avant-garde leader felt aghast with the dreadful working conditions prevailing in Bank. To see how the employees were forced to work for more than 14 hours a day. The precarious working conditions of the Bank Employees thus rattled the philanthropic conscious of Com. LV who then took it as a mission to bring in far-reaching changes in the way the management functions and stood rock solid against any atrocities and exploitations being meted out to his fellow colleagues. To accomplish his mission, Comrade L.V came in contact with trade union and socialist leaders. He joined the workmen staff union movement. He led and organized the 21days strike in most of the branches in Madhya Pradesh and became the representative of the Staff Federation.

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4. In June 1964 he was promoted as sub accountant and posted to Mumbai. He immediately could smell foul with the department and felt immediate need for change of the fate of the officers and free them from the slave-like confinements and treatment that had been the order of those days. He was committed to restore dignity of officers and bring an end to all the exploitations. He started motivating the individuals and groups about the need to end all kinds of tyranny in the industry and the importance of being united for a collective movement for a collective growth. His relentless endeavor towards greater unity ultimately got accomplishment through him successfully establishing the Mumbai Circle association in 1965. The stepping stone laid thus became the landing platform for the trade union to spread its wings all across the country that culminated into a historical event glittering till date as the historical indefinite strike for 17 long days during the year 1969. He is the architect, who made SBI Supervising Officials' Federation (Now AISBOF) into a militant Organisation and could mark an indelible impression in the canvas of the world Managerial Trade Union rights being a ground breaking event that subsequently resulted in yielding significant improvements in the service conditions of officers and contributed to the growth of the Officers' Trade Union movement in India. The struggle for these rights was hard-fought, with management asserting that officers were not covered under the ID Act. However, officers countered that the Constitution had granted them the right to Association and the right to freedom of expression. The argument found its resonance under the craftsmanship of this phenomenal leader.

5. Com. L. V. Subramaniam was a staunch believer in workmen-officers' unity. His visionary leadership is characterized by his innovative ideas and a futuristic approach. He envisaged a new era of trade union that would blend militancy with social responsibility, forging a mutually beneficial relationship with society. He firmly believed that a group of individuals with exceptional intellectual abilities could establish a model union, even without the protection of labor laws, to create a fair and just working environment. Com. LV's ideals were focused on improving service conditions and human working conditions, and he inspired the State Bank of India Officers' Associations to establish schools that continue to make a meaningful contribution to society. Comrade L.V laid down office as a General Secretary of the Federation in 1974 and handed over the baton to Com. R. N. Godbole. Then he concentrated more on working for broader unity and was instrumental in founding AICOBOO, an industry-level organization for officers of all banks, which was the first trade union to call for a strike after the emergency. As one of the founders of the officers' movement, he championed militant lines that enabled all bank employees and officers to negotiate from a powerful platform. He also played a significant role in getting International Labour Organisation (ILO) accept managerial staff as part of labour workforce and give them a definition as "**Professional Workforce**" and ILO recommending adopting a compendium of Good Principles and Practices relating to Professional workers was also contribution of officers movement.

6. Com. L.V. has been an iconic leader and his galactic personality could easily inspire many others in the banking industry to follow his footsteps. An excellent orator, an exceptional public servant and an outstanding trade union leader, comrade L.V had it all and could inspire trade union philosophy both in India as well as abroad. His ability and personality was such that people from all walks of life and from all trade unions loved and respected him. His affable personality and honest approach made him a humble individual who was respected and loved by all his comrades. He was a true trade union leader, and his contributions to the movement will always glitter as gold and shine brightest in the sky of trade union movement.

7. With his demise, we have lost a path finder who always fought for the rights of the officers' fraternity and could ignite many agitating souls. We pay our heartfelt respect to his holy soul and offer our condolences to his bereaved family members during this difficult time.

8. Com. L V Subramanian, however, lives, lives in the legacy he has created, shall continue living so long the struggle for living a dignified life continues, shall continue living so long the struggle for a better life continues inspiring mass movements, shall continue to live and motivate every suffering soul to be upright and upbeat and to fight for their dues, shall continue to live in our very existence. We dip our banners in sorrow and pay our respectful homage to the departed soul, in remembrance and in memorabilia.

Com. L V Subramanian Amar Rahe!

Yours comradely,

Sd/-

(Deepak Kumar Sharma)

General Secretary



Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay

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