

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

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

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Circular No. 188/2023

Date : 12.12.2023

To All Members (Please Circulate)

9TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **ADMINISTRATIVE ZONAL COMMITTEE, SOUTH 24 PARGANAS**

The 9th Annual General Meeting of SBI Officers' Association (Bengal Circle), Administrative Zonal Committee, South 24 Parganas was held on 27th November, 2023 (Monday). The meeting started at 11:00 am amidst loud slogans with hoisting of flag of State Bank of India Officers' Association (Bengal Circle) by paying tributes to the martyrs by the Chief Guest Shri Viveka Nand Singh, Deputy General Manager (B&O), South 24 Parganas Module and Comrade Sanjay Kumar Sharma, General Secretary Chandigarh Circle and Vice President AISBOF, inaugurator of the meeting in presence of Circle President Comrade Asitava Kundu, AGS South 24 Parganas Comrade Dilip Kumar Mandal, Comrade Amit Kumar Dey, AGS, SBISA South 24 Parganas Module, Com. Kirtiman Ghosh Zonal Secretary, SBI pensioner's Association, South 24pgs Module, Chief Regional Secretaries and Zonal Presidents of various Modules, SBIOA Seniors and the undersigned. General members from every nook and corner graced the occasion with their presence.

The opening session started at 11:15 A.M. in presence of Comrade Asitava Kundu, Circle President, Comrade Sanjay Kumar Sharma, General Secretary Chandigarh Circle and Vice President AISBOF, Shri Viveka Nand Singh, Deputy General Manager (B&O), South 24 Parganas Module, AGS South 24 Parganas Comrade Dilip Kumar Mandal, Comrade Amit Kumar Dey, AGS South 24 Parganas, SBISA, Com. Kirtiman Ghosh Zonal Secretary, SBI pensioners' Association and the undersigned. The anchor Comrade Reshma Shrestha, welcomed everyone present in the meeting. Then she invited the dignitaries and Management functionaries one by one on the dais. All the dignitaries were warmly greeted with saplings and Uttariyo by AZC South 24 Parganas. Inaugural songs "Chol re Chol Sobe Bharat Santan, Matribhoomi Kore Aahowan" and "Hamaari Hi Mutthi Mein Aakash Sara"... a rendition of the cultural wing of South 24 Parganas Module under 'SRIJAN' comprising Comrade Mouli Das, Comrade Enakshi Ghosh, Comrade Susmita Chatterjee, Comrade Sukant Saha, Comrade Pratap Sutar and others set the tune of the event to a high note. The ceremonial lamp was lighted by the Chief Guest, dignitaries on the dais and SBIOA Seniors present in the meeting.

After formal inauguration of the meeting, Comrade Shrestha invited on stage Comrade CRS Dipten Dinda who felicitated our Guest of Honour Comrade Sanjay Kumar Sharma, General Secretary Chandigarh Circle & Vice-President AISBOF. Comrade Asit Kumar Sinha & Comrade Sisir Ranjan Ghosh were also felicitated by Comrade Dipten Dinda, CRS & Comrade Himadri Das, Zonal President respectively, for their unrelenting support during medical emergencies, facilitating the hospitalization process and unending acts of grace and sympathy for all our comrades during their times of need.

Then Chief Regional Secretary, AZC South 24 Parganas extended a hearty welcome with revolutionary greetings, to all the dignitaries on and off the dais, leaders of the Central Committee along with the leaders invited from other Modules and members present in the meeting.

The undersigned welcomed the Guest of Honour Comrade Sanjay Kumar Sharma, General Secretary Chandigarh Circle & Vice-President AISBOF. The undersigned went on to announce the name of Office Bearers of the newly elected members of Administrative Zonal Committee 2024-26 and congratulated them for winning the election uncontested. The newly elected Committee is as follows :

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| • Com. Himadri Das | Zonal President |
| • Com Brigson Gomez | Zonal Vice-President |
| • Com. Dipten Dinda | Chief Regional Secretary |
| • Com. Akhtar Nazema | Asstt. Zonal Secretary |
| • Com. Saubhik Roy | Astt. Zonal Secretary |
| • Com. Asit Baran Purkait | Zonal Treasurer |
| • Com. Rohit Dutta | Asstt. Zonal Treasurer |
| • Com. Sukanta Saha | Member |
| • Com. Anandamoy Khatua | Member |
| • Com. Kaushik Mondal | Member |
| • Com. Bandana Paul | Member |
| • Com. Kingshuk Roy | Member |
| • Com. Anirban Bose | Member |
| • Com. Krishnendu Naskar | Member |
| • Com. Sanjib Laskar | Member |

Comrade Shrestha then invited on stage Chief Guest Shri Viveka Nand Singh, DGM (B&O) South 24 Parganas Module. Shri Singh welcomed everyone and congratulated the newly elected members. He said that its been long known, that association / trade unions show the pathway for progress in any organisation and that their contribution along with every member of SBI has made

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State Bank of India Officers' Association
(BENGAL CIRCLE)

: 2 :

SBI today the highest profit earning corporate. He also mentioned that he is hopeful that this time the wage revision/ signing of joint note will be completed very soon. He laid stress upon the culture of working each day, every day for achievement of targets and shared an anecdote emphasising the same. He thanked everyone for their superb turnout and wished everyone his bestwishes.

Comrade Shrestha then invited Guest of Honour Comrade Sanjay Kumar Sharma who thanked the audience for their large presence. Comrade Sharma mentioned how Bengal Circle was the torchbearer of Officers' Trade Union movement and was the first to unionize employees at Managerial level which was not seen before. He mentioned the fiery comrades that Bengal has produced and the Circle Association's unending contributions over the number of years. He congratulated the newly elected members of AZC and asked them to take pride in the legacy they are part of. He mentioned the incident when he had called for a strike in his Circle and thanked the Bengal Circle Association for providing their unconditional support during the time. He mentioned that the acute Staff shortage at all tiers making the Work-Life balance a mockery and the menace is felt at all levels. He categorically asked everyone to abstain from unethical practices which make the employees' careers vulnerable for facilitating promotions of their Controllers. He said peace purchase with Controllers at the cost of our career life is no bargain at all. He emphasised on the need of discipline for both Bank & Association. He assured us that we are to get a Historical Bipartite Settlement this year. He also mentioned the clauses benefitting Women employees are incorporated in the Charter of Demands. He confirmed that we would be getting the 5 day week as part of Bipartite Settlement/Joint Note. He also enumerated the change in Basic Pay and Load factor that is going to be implemented alongwith the revision in Salary & Pension for correction of the anomaly of pay between Supervising & Award Staff. He requested everyone to lay stress upon reducing customer complaints to the furthest extent possible and expressed concern on the increasing workload of Customer Service Department & Vigilance Department. He also made us aware of Govt's pro-privatisation stand. He concluded by requesting everyone to adhere to ever-sacred bye-laws of the association and follow the Work-Life balance Circular, including the SOP for holiday working.

Comrade Shrestha then invited Comrade Amit Kumar Dey, AGS-SBISA who greeted everyone and opined that the SBIOA symbol stands for Faith, Truth & Sacrifice. Achievements of SBIOA, the imperative need of SBIOA & SBISA to work in tandem, fight against Bank privatisation, losses faced by SBI & LIC post Hindenburg Research Report etc. were the key points in his speech. He concluded by giving the example of Silicon Valley Bank and requested all SBI employees to stand united in the fight against the greater evil of Bank Privatisation.

Comrade Shrestha then invited Comrade Kirtiman Ghosh Zonal Secretary, SBI Pensioners' Association. Comrade Ghosh spoke about the various issues faced by the pensioners. He also spoke of the erstwhile measly family pension which was revised in the last bipartite and for that he is thankful to SBIOA, AISBOF and AIBOC. He mentioned that the ones who are fighting for benefits of the currently working officers will eventually become a part of the SBI Pensioners family. Therefore, considering the plight of pensioners, he requested to view things in a different light and give equal priority towards the issues of pensioners.

Thereafter Comrade Shrestha handed over the microphone to President of the Meeting Comrade Himadri Das for conducting the Business Session.

Comrade Das heartily welcomed the Circle leadership, Inaugurator of the Meeting, Chief Guest, leaders from other Modules, SBIOA Seniors and all members present in the meeting. Business session of the meeting started with the pledge taken by all the members present in the meeting and it was read out by Comrade Himadri Das. Then he read out the Notice of the meeting and its agenda. As per agenda No 1, he requested Comrade Dipten Dinda to present the Chief Regional Secretary's Report before the House for discussion and adoption. One minute silence was observed to pay respect to the personalities who breathed their last during the year under report. Comrade Dinda after taking permission from the house read out only pertinent points of the Report in the house due to time constraints. Thereafter, Comrade Asit Baran Purkait, Zonal Treasurer presented the audited Statements of Accounts to the house for discussion and adoption.

Then Comrade Das invited the members to express their views and opinion on the Secretary's report and audited Statement of Accounts.

Following five members volunteered to discuss on the Secretary's report and audited Statement of Accounts.

Comrade Krishnananda Sarkar (Nimpith Branch): He supported the Secretary's Report alongwith the Statement of Accounts. He shed light on a saddening aspect of today's society where a lot of people choose remain in shells and therefore are in dire need of mental and emotional support where Association can play an important role by providing a sense of security.

Comrade Baisali Mitra Mallick (Baroda Park Branch): She supported the Secretary's Report alongwith the Statement of Accounts. She pointed out that mass exodus of HBL customers is happening due to the Repo rate hikes in the recent times and need on a centralised level to take measures to arrest the drift. She also mentioned that alongwith preventing customer complaints we also need some kind of protection for ourselves from customer misbehaviour / misdemeanour. The issue of manpower shortage was also raised by Comrade Mitra.

Comrade Chiranjib Chatterjee (Behala Branch): He supported the Secretary's Report alongwith the Statement of Accounts. He appreciated the list of empanelled diagnostic Centres that have been incorporated in the Secretary's Report this year and expressed concern over growing manpower shortage, excessive amount of phone calls from controlling offices throughout the day, the high attrition rate of newly joined Probationary Officers in SBI alongwith the tremendous fall in number of applicants / examinee for SBI PO exams and the fabricated propoganda against PSU Banks & its employees on social media. He also spoke about the indifference towards aggressive marketing of its huge plethora of products.

Comrade Amal Mondal (Khariberia Branch): He supported the Secretary's Report alongwith the Statement of Accounts and reiterated the issue of innumerable phone calls throughout the day from controlling offices and shortage of staff at branches. He also called for a united stand amongst ourselves so that we may effectively counter the various injustices faced by the members.

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State Bank of India Officers' Association

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

: 3 :

Comrade Dina Bandhu Jha (Bakrahat Branch): He supported the Secretary's Report alongwith the Statement of Accounts and spoke of the improper handling of customers by Customer Care representatives and various departments of the Bank leading to rise in customer complaints. He also expressed concern regarding the drastic fall in classroom training sessions post covid.

Comrade Dipten Dinda, CRS AZC South 24 Parganas in his reply addressed the issues raised by various members in the business session. Comrade Dinda specifically laid stress upon following SOP while working at branches since disciplinary cases are at an all time high and therefore one should be very careful as to not indulge and/or get involved in anything which might be considered unethical. He requested all members to kindly check their domicile status in HRMS and get the needful done well within time. He urged the members to raise the voice against any misbehaviour, maintain solidarity and remain vigilant in all their day to day works.

The Report and Statement of Accounts were unanimously accepted and passed by the House.

Since, there was no resolution, President of the meeting clubbed Agenda No 3 and 4.

Comrade Das then invited Comrade Dilip Kumar Mandal Assistant General Secretary, South 24 Parganas for his valuable deliberation.

Comrade Dilip Kumar Mandal, AGS, South 24 Parganas Module greeted everyone and said that the innumerable works done by the AZC could not be summed up wholly in these Report. In his short and concise speech, he raised the issue of shortage of Officers due to improper manpower planning and thereby causing rise in number of single officer branches. He requested Officers posted at ZO/RBO, especially at HR section should treat their fellow colleagues sympathetically. He congratulated all members for the good work done during the year and wished his best for the year ahead.

Comrade Das invited Circle President Comrade Asitava Kundu on stage who is going to retire by next June,2024 to felicitate. He was given a standing ovation by all the attendees as a mark of respect.

Comrade Asitava Kundu greeted everyone and appreciated the taut pace at which the AGM was conducted. He suggested the newly elected members to deepen their connect with the general members. He laid stress on working ethically. He spoke about the plight of officers posted at TB-HUB and that the bank needs to rethink about its strategy of garnering CASA deposits. He mentioned that acute staff shortage and lag in CBS / other related apps also leads to customer complaints and the issue needs to be addressed. He also pointed out that Bank putting out advertisements for recruitment of Probationary Officers and still examiners reporting 60-70 % attendance is area of major concern, not to mention the ever-rising attrition rates. He deeply criticized manpower planning practised for branches and cost centres. He concluded by giving inputs about the new financial / non-financial benefits that we are to get in the forthcoming Bipartite Settlement and advise all members to stand united with the association as always.

The undersigned in his address pointed out that the various benefits that we are going to get during this wage revision might come at a steep cost. He mentioned how the Government has realized that Bankers have the grit and gumption to take the streets against the draconian laws of the Government and alter public opinion regarding the same. Therefore we have to adhere to the call of "Together We Can" whole-heartedly. He elaborated the need to stand united with forums such as UFBU, AIBOC etc. for the greater good. He shared the plight of the officers of Standard Chartered Bank and how SBIOA helped them to form a Trade-Union wing for the first time. The undersigned spoke about the Synergy Meet to be held at Kolkata with the apex authorities of the Bank and both the Federation leadership. He mentioned that after a strenuous battle with the management we were able to get the 100 Circle based officer. He aptly portrayed the picture of multiple focuses set throughout the day by means of redundant phone calls which results in diminished outcome. He spoke of the multiple frauds committed at ATMs handled by outsourced agencies and the unhealthy competition that has started within the bank to appease controllers. He spoke of the menace of FIRs being lodged by customers against Bank Officers and the exploitation by enforcement agencies since Bank Officers are the soft targets for them. The undersigned mentioned that he has taken up the matter with senior official of Govt of West Bengal. The one sided stands being taken by the Vigilance in various instances was also shared with the attendees. The undersigned also discussed that the huge pendency in Sunday / Holiday working bills has also been taken up with the appropriate authority. He discussed on unethical instruction and misbehaviour of Controllers with internal customers and ensured that the Association will go to the greatest length to safeguard an officer who has committed anything without mala fide intent. He concluded his deliberation by wishing his best to the newly elected committee members.

The meeting was declared concluded by the President of the meeting with vote of thanks by Comrade Anandamay Khatua followed by rendition of the National Anthem.

With revolutionary greetings,

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay
(General Secretary)

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