



ALL INDIA BANK RETIREES' FEDERATION

D-1/1, Sector-C, Scheme-71,
Near Kasara Bazar School, Indore – 452 009.

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OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

As a sequel to the Settlement/Joint Note dated 24-10-1993, Pension Scheme was introduced in banking industry on 29.09.1995. It baptized the bank retirees as pensioners irrespective of their past designations & restored their links with bank as pensioners. This landmark achievement in the history of bank employees as well as bank retirees necessitated organising bank retirees for redressal of their legitimate grievances and eventual improvement in pensionary benefits. The difficult task of organising bank retirees across the country was initiated by Late Com. Romesh Chander Chakraborty along with other bank retirees with the objective of forming an inclusive all-cadre national organisation of bank retirees. Thus national organisation of bank retirees - ALL INDIA BANK RETIREES' FEDERATION was born on 1st May in 1994 at Ahmedabad.

Since then, bank retirees have been organising themselves across the country under the banner of AIBRF for the last 19 years to protect their interest. With pardonable pride, we can claim now that our All India Bank Retirees' Federation (AIBRF) is the single, largest premier Apex body of bank retirees, having primary membership of more than 1,00,000/- from 42 Public & Private Sector Banks in India.

AIBRF and its Affiliates, through consistent and persistent efforts over a period of several years could achieve the following in various banks:

- *Introduction of ex-gratia payment with index linked Dearness Relief to Pre 1986 retirees;*
- *Introduction of Ex-gratia payment of Rs.1000/- to widows of Pre-1986 retirees;*
- *Allocation of funds for welfare of retirees out of Staff Welfare Fund;*
- *Grant of notional service up to 5 years under Regulation 29 to those retired under Special VR Scheme in 2000/2001 benefiting about 1 lac retirees;*
- *Setting up of Grievances Redressal Cell in banks to discuss bank level complaints/issues of retirees;*
- *Issuance of Pension Payment Order (PPO) to Pensioners;*
- *Improvements in Medical Schemes in banks out of Staff Welfare Fund;*
- *Higher rate of interest on deposits of pensioners as applicable to Senior Citizens in addition to one percent applicable to Ex-Staff;*
- *Correction of anomaly created in 7th Wage Settlement in fixing Basic Pension for those retired between 1998 to 2002;*
- *One more Pension Option to more than 60000 past retirees under 9th Wage Settlement;*
- *Grant of Soft Loan to retirees in many banks to those who were eligible for pension option under 9th Settlement towards refund of 156% of the Bank's Contribution to the Provident Fund; ;*
- *Another Pension Option to PF Optee Retiree Officers who took VRS as per Officers' Service Regulations;*
- *Credit Facility to the pensioners on easy terms;*
- *Interest free Festival Advance in many banks;*
- *Issuance of Identity Cards to retirees;*

- Reverse Mortgage Facility against mortgage of fixed assets to provide liquidity to meet urgent expenses;
- Extension of Holiday Home Facility to retirees;
- Specified Bank Services available free of charge to retirees;
- Interest payment on Gratuity amount for delayed period;
- Payment of pension through Core Banking on fixed date;
- Addition of spouse name in pension crediting account to avoid any administrative complication after the death of pensioner;
- Grant of higher Ex-Gratia amount than prescribed by the government to Pre-1986 Retirees out of Staff Welfare Funds in many banks.

Nevertheless, the following issues still remain unresolved:

- a) Basic Pension of the past retirees has not been revised since introduction of the Pension Scheme in 1995 which has created huge gap in the pension benefits of those retiring now and those retired during the earlier periods. We demand that the basic pension should be revised on the lines of 6th Pay Commission Recommendations applicable to the Government retirees;
- b) Family pension should be paid on the lines of the Government/RBI retirees;
- c) Uniform Dearness Relief for all class of retirees;
- d) Improvement in Ex-Gratia amount payable to Pre-1986 Retirees and their Widows;
- e) Uniform Medical Scheme for the retirees;
- f) Implementation of Court decisions in all banks;
- g) Another Pension option to all retirees who have not been covered under 9th BPS/Joint Note dated 27.04.2010 and
- h) Extension of benefit of industry-level Pension Regulations to the retired employees of Private Sector banks;

AIBRF has been taking up these issues with the government/IBA/UFBU for their early solution at the organisational level. Now negotiations for the 10th Bipartite Settlement at the industry level to revise service conditions for the serving employees as well as to review pension related issues have already begun. In the UFBU meeting held at Chennai on 04.07.2013, apex level retirees' organisations participated for highlighting their grievances and long pending demands. Responding to our presentation, the leadership of UFBU clarified that the core demands of the retirees like Pension updation/ 100% Neutralisation of DA, Improvement in Family Pension, Enhancement of Pre-1986 Ex-gratia amount, Uniform Hospitalisation Scheme etc., will have UFBU's prioritised attention for taking up with IBA in the 10th Bipartite Wage Negotiations. Walking together with the UFBU and partaking in all its programmes for realisation of the demands, coupled with our own organisational measures, we believe, will strengthen our hands in advancing the interest of the retirees more effectively in the days to come.


 (S.C. JAIN)
 GENERAL SECRETARY