



BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION OF INDIA

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To all Units, Office Bearers, CC & GC Members

Dear Comrade,

Office Bearers' Meeting

The first Office Bearers' Meeting after our 10th Conference was held at Kolkata on 13th April 2019. At the outset the Office Bearers paid respectful homage to our former General Secretary Comrade Santi Bardhan.

The meeting discussed some important issues.

Bipartite Talks

Since our 10th Conference two meetings of full negotiating committee and one meeting of the core group were held. The meeting expressed deep concern over the attitude of the Govt.-Banker combine to create rift among the constituents of UFBU. The office bearers expressed their anguish over the stubborn attitude of IBA in the matter of mandate issue up to Scale VII. Though the IBA improved their offer to negotiate up to Scale V, the meeting decided to put pressure on IBA appropriately for obtaining full mandate from the concerned banks.

The meeting expressed concern over the decision of two officers' organisation for not participation centering round mandate issue. While BEFI will play its role in maintaining unity within UFBU, the meeting endorsed the decision of continuing bipartite talks with IBA.

The meeting is of the opinion that the offer of 10% increase in wage bill is not acceptable. Though the amount of 10% of wage bill as on 31.03.2017 is more than 15% of wage bill as on 31.03.2012 but it is nowhere near to a reasonable amount of increase in present conditions of cost of living. The meeting decided to continue strong opposition to the proposal of additional increase on the basis of performance, operating profits and return on assets.

The meeting also discussed on the issues related to the retirees. The issues of joint note dated 25.05.2015 which was included in the common charter of demands, i.e. updation of pension at the time of wage revision; improvement in family pension; uniform dearness for all retirees was discussed in detail and the meeting decided to take up the issues in right earnest during the wage negotiation. The meeting also decided to continue sustained campaign against NPS and take necessary initiative to discontinue it for the bank employees and officers who joined service in banks on or after 01.04.2010.

The meeting observed that the Govt., on the one hand, is helping the big corporate in loot and plundering of lakhs of crores of people's money in the name of hair cut, write off and through provisioning of bad debts and, on the other hand, is taking a negative attitude in the matter of wage agreement of the bank employees and officers. As a result of this approach of the Ministry of Finance, stalemate like situation is prevailing in the bipartite talks. The office bearers, while expressing anguish, decided to unleash aggressive campaign against the attitude of the Govt. at the centre.

Amalgamation of 3 banks

As the amalgamation is in the process of implementation w.e.f. 1st April 2019, the meeting discussed about its after effects on the bank and its employees. The meeting took note of the agitation programme during the month of February 2019 as decided by UFBU. It is a matter of concern that the joint programme could not be held in all places. The Union Finance Minister adamantly announced that further consolidation process will continue. The largest opposition party, i.e. Indian National Congress, in its manifesto declared that it will also go for amalgamation to bring the number of PSBs down to 6-8. The office bearers' meeting resolved that our opposition against amalgamation/merger will have to continue. Besides taking initiative for adopting joint programme under UFBU, BEFI will also continue its independent endeavor of opposing further amalgamation of PSBs.

The meeting took note of the organisational aspects of our units in these 3 banks. It has been decided that necessary steps based on concrete conditions will have to be taken by appropriate forums of our units in the 3 banks. The State Units will provide adequate support in consolidating and strengthening our organisation in the amalgamated set up.

BEFI NEWS

The meeting decided to take initiative for increasing the number of circulations of our organ. It has been decided that Comrade Jayanta Roy will continue to act as the Convener of the BEFI NEWS sub-committee. A new sub-committee will be formed with comrades from the Head Quarters in consultation with BEF (West Bengal). Suggestions on increase in the number of issues to be published in a year, mode of circulation etc. were discussed. It was decided that the Units will be advised to take planned initiative for increasing the number of circulations substantially in their respective areas.

Organisation

The meeting took stock of the organisational situation of different state units. It reiterated the decisions taken by the General Council Meeting at Kolkata in June last year following an organisational meeting of the leadership of our Units and Bank level Unions. The meeting also identified the State Units whose functioning is weak and decided to take necessary steps to rejuvenate those units.

The meeting called upon all state units to take all possible initiative so that the 2nd edition of our publication "History of Bank Employees Movement" is collected by our leaders, activists and particularly by the new generation employees.

It was further decided that next CC Meeting of our Federation will be held in Chennai in the month of June 2019 preceded by OB meeting.

With greetings,

Yours comradely,



(Debasish Basu Chaudhury)
General Secretary