



BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION OF INDIA

NARESH PAUL CENTRE

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30th March 2017

To all Affiliates/Office Bearers/CC/GC Members

Dear Comrades,

General Council Meeting

Our General Council (GC) meeting, as per schedule, was held at Agartala (Tripura) on 26th and 27th March 2017.

A Reception Committee for this meeting was constituted with the active participation of the representatives from our fraternal organisations in different sectors with Com. Shankar Dutta, Hon'ble Member of Parliament as the Chairman. The Reception Committee made elaborate arrangements for our General Council meeting which was held successfully with the largest participation of the GC members. General Council extended thanks to all the members of our Tripura unit for the excellent arrangement made by them and to all the volunteers for their untiring efforts that made the event a memorable one.

A public rally was organised by the Reception Committee on 26th in the afternoon at Rabindra Centenary Auditorium in Agartala and it was attended by around 2000 bank employees and officers including employees from other service sectors.

Centering round this public rally, in commemoration of the Birth Centenary of Com. Naresh Paul, a memorial lecture was organised and the main speaker was **Com. Manik Sarkar**, Chief Minister of Tripura. Com. Manik Sarkar in his address narrated how the present regime at the centre is behaving in an authoritarian manner suppressing all democratic norms and forms with an intention to create division amongst the working people on communal lines. Com. Sarkar drew to the attention of the bank employees not to keep themselves confined in the issues of the industry alone, but also to play their due role in safeguarding the national integrity and communal harmony amongst the citizens of our country. Com. Sarkar reposed confidence on the bank employees' movement saying that the way they are fighting to save the public sector banks, in the same way they will also continue to be the part of the democratic movement of the country against the anti-people policies of the Central Government. Com. Shankar Dutta, on behalf of the Reception Committee gave welcome address in the public rally.

The GC meeting was preceded by a meeting of our Women Sub-Committee. On the suggestion of Women Sub-Committee, GC decided to hold the **3rd National Women's Convention** of our Federation in the month of December this year in Chennai, the dates of which will be finalised in consultation with our Tamilnadu Unit.

The GC meeting had discussions on the draft **Charter of Demands** for next wage revision prepared by the Office Bearers. The meeting authorised the Office Bearers to finalise the **Charter of Demands** based on the suggestions given by the General Council members.

GC considered the need for holding **Trade Union Workshop** at 3 centres viz. Kolkata, Patna and Bangalore to inculcate basic trade union understandings amongst our activists,

from all over the country, who have joined banking services during the last one decade. Detailed circular on the schedule of this workshop will be issued separately.

GC took note of the growth of **Contractual Workers** in the banking industry at all centres and decided that all State units have to take the initiative in right earnest to organise this workforce under our banner where it is yet to take a concrete shape.

On the suggestion given by our **BEFI-News** Sub-Committee looking to the escalation of printing cost, GC decided that the rate of donation to be collected for each copy of BEFI-News will be Rs.15/- with effect from April 2017 issue.

GC called upon all the State Units and bank wise Unions to chalk out year long programme to observe **Birth Centenary** of **Com. Naresh Paul**, the pioneer of bank employees' movement of our country in a befitting manner. State level Committee meeting should be held at the earliest to chalk out programme and implementation of the same has to be monitored. State level trade union workshop covering the new recruits exclusively, must be one of the events on this occasion.

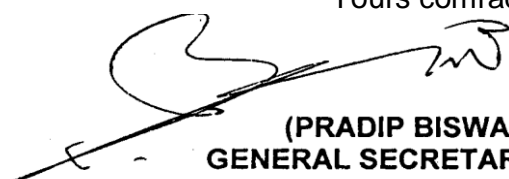
GC had threadbare discussion on the recent developments centering round **capital infusion** by Government to **10 public sector banks**. General Council expressed concern on the conditionality proposed by the Government for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the Government, Management and the unions at bank level. GC, after discussion on the issue, decided that our affiliates in the concerned banks should not be parties to such MoU agreeing any derogatory condition which will go against the public sector character of the banks, against the interest of the workforce and facilitate large scale closure of branches. Our GC meeting was preceded by informal talks among some constituents of UFBU on 24th instant and it was felt that an urgent meeting of UFBU should be held for arriving at a common position on the issue. Accordingly UFBU meeting was convened to be held on 29th March 2017 in Mumbai. Unfortunately, on 28th late evening, it came to the notice of our units in three banks viz. Allahabad Bank, UCO Bank and United Bank of India that all other Unions, barring our Units, who were called by the management in those banks, have severally signed MoU at the bank level. In this backdrop, our affiliates also lastly had to sign MoU in the concerned banks making to the management emphatically clear that they **will not be party to the turnaround plan** to be formulated if it contains any provision for further dilution of Govt. holding in the banks, closure of branches and curtailment of employees' existing rights and benefit.

In the **UFBU** meeting held yesterday in Mumbai, we expressed our displeasure on the developments that took place of 28th in different banks when UFBU was to meet on 29th. General feeling of the meeting was akin to that of ours and meeting concluded that such things should not recur.

Comrades, our units in all the banks have to be very cautious and careful in dealing with the revival plan of the banks concerned to be taken up by managements within April next.

With greetings,

Yours comradely,



(PRADIP BISWAS)
GENERAL SECRETARY