



# **BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION OF INDIA**

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30<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

## **Press Statement issued by Shri Pradip Biswas, General Secretary, Bank Employees Federation of India on All India Bank Strike.**

“Congratulations to the million strong bankmen (workmen and officers) for the splendid role in making the **ALL INDIA BANK STRIKE** today a huge success demanding meaningful negotiations and expeditious wage-settlement that has been overdue since 01<sup>st</sup> November 2017; the strike has been called by **United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU)**, the umbrella-organisation of nine unions of workmen and officers of the Banking Industry, against Bankers’ offer of a pittance of 2% wage increase on the plea of poor paying capacity.

Banks in our country, be in Public Sector or Private, have all along been earning decent profits; all the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) taken together have earned operating profits to the tune of Rs.1.38.440/- crore, Rs.1,36,926/-crore & Rs.1,58,982/-crore in the preceding three years (2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17). In recent years, however, provisioning against Bad Loans, euphemistically called Non Performing Assets (NPA), has swallowed up the lion’s share of the profits. While some amounts of Bad Loans is a normal incidence and, hence, provisioning thereagainst is a normal loss in Banking Business, the enormous growth of NPA and, as such, astronomical provisioning, has been of very recent origin; total NPA of all PSBs taken together that stood at Rs.2,29,278/- crore at the end of 2013-14 fiscal, has more than trebled to Rs.7,70,280/- crore (as on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017) in less than four years. More than 85% of these NPA are accounted for by big corporates having unholy nexus with political bosses at the centre and top echelons of Banks. Reserve Bank of India has recently identified 12 such corporate accounts having outstanding loan, identified as NPA, of Rs,2,53,733/- crore. Naturally enough, our PSBs have had to provide as much as Rs.1.00.900/- crore, Rs.1,54,918/- crore and Rs.1,70,370/- crore in, respectively, 2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17. While the profits are generated through dedication and toil of the workforce, credit for generation of NPA goes to the top echelons of Banks and their political bosses. Hence, demanding a small fraction of operating profits by way of wage increase is more than justified when more than 70% (and even more than 100% in the last two years) is allowed to be siphoned out through the subterfuge of provisioning for NPA; incidentally, every 1% of wage increase would entail an additional burden of only Rs.500/- crore annually.

Another contention put forward by the Indian Banks’ Association (IBA) is that Wage should be performance linked; by that logic, most of the top bosses of the Banks, having shown their dubious acumen in generating NPA, should cool their heels behind the bars.

Be that as it may, the workmen and officers of Banks, united under the banner of UFBU, are determined to clinch a fair wage deal and, to that end, shall continue with the **ALL INDIA BANK STRIKE** tomorrow too; should IBA neglects or refuses to listen, the Bankmen shall be compelled to make it listen too through intensified action programme before long.”

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To  
The News Editor/Chief Reporter

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For favour of circulation/broadcast through your esteemed media please.

Joydeb Dasgupta,  
Secretary.