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Circular no. 15 – 24.

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For circulation among members of the Governing Council, State Secretaries, Special Invitees, Advisors, Affiliates, Constituents of CBPRO and Members.

Dear Comrade,

Sub: (i) Governing Council of AIBPARC meets at Delhi on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024 and resolves to carry on the focused struggle for achieving Pension Updation and other important issues.

(ii) Constituents of CBPRO meet in the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024 and takes important decisions which have already been circulated.

**1**. Members are aware of the fact that the Delhi Police by its order passed in the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 had withdrawn the permission given for holding the Dharna at Jantar Mantar, Delhi on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024 at the call of CBPRO in view of "security/ law & order /traffic reason", arising out of the on-going Farmers' Agitation. This information was made known to members by our circular 12-24 issued on the same day.

Delhi State AIBPARC leaders had made elaborate preparations for the massive Dharna and the response from our various Affiliates and Comrades across the country and Constituents of CBPRO was extremely Stupendous. Even other Organisations, All India PNB Retired Officers Association and All India Bank Retirees Action Forum extended their full support to the Dharna. But the withdrawal of Police Permission in the Eleventh Hour came as an Anti-Climax to what could have turned out to be one of the most successful and the largest Grand Shows of Unity and Solidarity of Bank Pensioners and Retirees about their main Issue of Updation of Pension and other Issues like reckoning of Special Allowance for Pension and Gratuity, Medical Insurance, one more Option for the Left-out Retirees and very importantly Negotiation Status to Apex Level Retirees Organisations.

We are extremely sorry that many of our Comrades from far distant places of the country who had made with lot of enthusiasm and commitment travel arrangements despite their age, health conditions and cold conditions in Delhi and this part of the country had to cancel their programme with lot of disappointment and losing heavy cancelation charges. We convey our sincerest thanks to them and also assure our members to continue the Struggle with renewed vigor, vibrance and missionary zeal to get Justice. We also profusely thank Leaders of Delhi State AIBPARC, Comrades A K Nagar and D K Hans, President and Secretary and their dynamic Delhi State Committee for the way they toiled for the planned Dharna and also for conducting the Governing Council Meeting and CBPRO meeting.

**2.** A Memorandum to the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister has been submitted on 22nd February, 2024 and the same has been duly acknowledged by the Hon'ble Minister's Office.

**3.** All the members of the Governing Council present at the National Capital had seized this opportunity to hold the meeting for complete two days and took stock of the current situation which had been prevailing in respect of different unresolved issues of the Bank Retirees. Large number of speakers who included, inter alia, the President, the Advisor, the Working Presidents, the General Secretary, and the General Secretaries/ important office bearers of all the affiliates took part in deliberations. **Com. Harvinder Singh Ji**, Former General Secretary AIBOC and now the General Secretary of Delhi Circle



BOIPARA was warmly felicitated by the Governing Council. At the end of the meeting of the second day, several decisions had been taken which would be reported at the end.

**4**. **Com. Dipak Kumar Basu**, General Secretary, Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations addressed the Governing Council and assured that through CBPRO greater Unity and Solidarity of Bank Pensioners and Retirees Movement would be achieved and Joint Struggle would be launched to realize the pending issues.

**5. Shri Girish Arya**, National Secretary, BMS & In Charge of the Financial Sector who had kindly agreed to address the proposed Dharna at Jantar Mantar, Delhi on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024 also consented to address the GC meeting of AIBPARC. In his address, he appreciated the contribution of the Retirees in the building of the nation; he explained the philosophy of the organization he belongs to as " work with full involvement and earn Just wages"; he reported in detail the issues of the Pensioners and the Retirees which had already been settled at the intervention of the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister and assured that he would make continuous endeavours to ensure that all the pending issues of the Retirees could reach a logical conclusion. He affirmed that BMS is always anti – privatization in the Banking sector.

**6.** The House in a full- throated voice welcomed the inclusion of Bank of Baroda Retired Officers Association (BOBROA) as an affiliate of AIBPARC. This is a matter of real pleasure to convey that the said organization has membership strength of above 12,000. The prominent leaders of the organization have been co-opted in various positions like Working President, Senior Vice President, Joint General Secretary, Assistant General Secretaries and Special Invitees. The presence of **Shri S. C. Ahuja**, Retired Chief General Manager of BOB and the newly co-opted Working President of AIBPARC was enthusiastically cheered by the members. Our website (<u>www.aibprc.co.in</u>) will be updated within a few days and the names of all the leaders of BOBROA will appear in the Block "Office Bearers" with details of contact numbers and email ids.

7. Because of creation of vacancies by way of natural wastage and resignation, several nominees of Canara Bank Retired Officers Association (CBROA) have been co-opted in various posts. Prominent among them is **Com. J. S. Jagadeesh**, General Secretary of the Association who has been co-opted as the Joint General Secretary of AIBPARC. All other names of the office bearers will be appearing in our website in next few days. **Com. Paul Mundadan** has been co-opted as the Senior Vice President of AIBPARC in place of the vacancy caused by the superannuation of Com. Tom Thomas of our affiliate in Federal Bank.

**8.** The House noted the development that our affiliate at erstwhile Allahabad Bank would henceforth be functioning in the name and style of All India Indian Bank Pensioners & Retirees Association (e-ALB).

## 9. Following decisions have been taken by the House:

(a)\* The 6- man committee formed by the GC to have a re-look into the GMISR and to suggest ways and means to make a Retiree- friendly Mediclaim policy will be finalizing their stand preferably within 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024 and submit the same to the organization for taking up again with GOI/ IBA. The organization will employ all out efforts to see that the GMISR which is a product of long struggle does not evaporate because of the shocking negligence to the interest of the senior citizens. The House expressed serious resentment against the harassment of members because of lesser and delayed reimbursement in the name of ceilings.

(b)\* The House resolved with conviction that the problems and the issues affecting the interest of Retirees must be heard by IBA from the apex level Retiree organizations. IBA will have to follow in letter and spirit its own circular issued to Member Banks for formation of a grievance redressal



mechanism at corporate level and the door of formal negotiation at IBA level must be made broadly open for the Retiree organizations. It has also been decided that AIBPARC would be stepping up its activities to increase its visibility by way of repeated knocking at the doors of IBA which is the ultimate delivery outlet in the industry. Although some of the actions of UFBU have created a lot of agony in the minds of the Retirees, the House decided to keep UFBU apprised about all our endeavours on vital issues and seek their co-operation.

(c)\* The House resolved to look after the issue of "Special Allowance" with all possible care in all its negotiations/ correspondence with IBA/GOI and also decided to keep a strict watch over the development in the Judiciary so that right kind of help / assistance can be extended at the right moment to ensure delivery of justice to the affected Retirees.

(d)\* The House decided that the principal focus of the organization will be on clinching the issue of Pension Updation for all eligible retirees. The struggle in various forms – follow up with political leadership, bureaucracy, IBA etc. will continue without break; the case pending before the Supreme Court will be followed up with all available resources at our disposal and the anguish of the retirees will be displayed through various forms of movement. It was also decided that although the organization is vehemently opposed to the concept of "ex-gratia", it hopes that Pension Updation will automatically follow and wish that the understanding on Ex-gratia in the MOU is given immediate effect on the ground for the reason that members in distress are eagerly waiting for any financial benefit to come. This stand of ours will not create any jeopardy to our struggle for achieving pension updation.

(e)\* The House resolved that the follow up measures for implementation of improved Family Pension in certain Private Sector Banks and receiving an early clearance from GOI in regard to the issue of Resignees will continue with all sincerity. All other issues, whether dealt with in the above paragraphs or not, will be followed up with all sincerity.

(f)\* Last but not the least, the House resolved that the most effective forum of CBPRO would be further re-vitalized and its functioning would further be streamlined to ensure its efficacy so that the principal pending issues which are common to all the constituents could be taken up with all sincerity at the levels of GOI /IBA. It was further decided that AIBPARC, being one of the principal constituents of CBPRO, will also strive to ensure that a workable unity could be forged among all the Retiree organizations of the country so that various organizations could speak in a single voice. Reference may please be made to the CBPRO circular no. 01-24 which has been duly reproduced by our organization.

**Comrades**, the holding of the GC meeting will further consolidate the co-ordination and cohesion remaining between like – minded organizations. Let us march ahead with courage, conviction and confidence.

With best wishes and regards,

Comradely yours,

K.V. Acharya. President, AIBPARC & Joint Convener, CBPRO

Suprita Sarkar General Secretary