

ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS' & RETIREES' CONFEDERATION

(A.I.B.P.A.R.C.)

C/O BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (EASTERN INDIA BRANCHES)

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Date:18.04.2021.

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

Dear Comrade.

Sub: Improvement of Family Pension in the Banking Industry.

We are reproducing hereunder the text of a letter written to Hon'ble Union Finance Minister on the above subject on 17.04.21 by Joint Conveners, CBPRO for information of members.

With best wishes and regards,

Comradely Yours,

(SUPRITA SARKAR) GENERAL SECRETARY

Quote:

COORDINATION OF BANK PENSIONERS' AND RETIREES ORGANISATIONS

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Dated: 17.04.2021

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Finance Minister, Government of India. New Delhi.

Respected Madam,

Sub: Improvement of Family Pension in the Banking Industry.

We wish to invite your kind attention to our various letters requesting your good-self to render justice by effecting the improvements in our Family Pension Scheme at par with Central Government and RBI Family Pension Scheme.

As you may be aware, we are the largest Coordination of Bank Pensioners and Retirees Organizations' (CBPRO) comprising of Federation of SBI Pensioners Associations, AIBPARC, RBONC, AIRBEA and FORBE. We have been persistently pursuing the cause of Banks Pensioners and Retirees with the Government and IBA.

As regards the improvements in our Family Pension Scheme, we wish to mention that the issue stands resolved in principle but its benefits are yet to be passed on to the family Pensioners who are largely the widows of Bank Employees' and Officers. It would be worthmentioning the following developments in this regard:

- 1. The Memorandum of Understanding signed on 22nd July, 2020 and the Bipartite Settlement/Joint Note signed on 11th November, 2020 between IBA and different Unions and Associations of the Industry categorically mentioned that the rate of Family Pension would be revised at uniform 30% of pay of the deceased Employees/Officers' Spouses without any ceiling subject to Government approval. Although the Managing Committee of IBA sent the recommendations for improvement of family Pension more than two years ago, its inclusion in Bipartite Settlement/Joint Note dated 11 November 2021 was a formal codification and the Retirees of the Banking Industry had been under an impression that the same would be favourably resolved immediately after the Settlement was concluded and the Government would accord its approval alongwith clearance for payment of revised salary w.e.f 01.11.2017.
- 2. We further understand that IBA also sent a detailed proposal along with financial implications and liabilities. As information available with us, IBA has already submitted

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the requisite papers, clarifications, cost analysis etc. to the satisfaction of the Department of Financial Services, Government of India

- 3. The above two developments were a sequel to your inaugural speech delivered at the 73rd Annual General Meeting of IBA on 10th November 2020 where you observed that the Retirees were as much important as customers and they should be treated as Members of the same family and take care like Defence Pensioners. You had been kind enough to tell in unequivocal terms that the Bank Managements should see that the Retirees and their families stayed well. The Retirees also got the message from your interview with Business Line, Hindu that Chairman, SBI, Secretary DFS and Chairman, IBA had been asked to resolve the issues of improvement of Family Pension, Updation of Pension, Medical Facilities etc. early
- 4. Madam, it was further heartening to note from the reply given by the Government to the questions of Hon'ble Members of Parliament that IBA had already sent its recommendations for Improvements in Family Pension and the Government was seized of the issue and it was under active consideration.

Respected Madam, it is about nine months since the first announcement of Improvement in Family Pension was made at the time of signing the MOU between IBA and UFBU. Large number of Bank Pensioners and their Spouses are at their advanced age. Some of the Pensioners and Family Pensioners have already breathed their last with an unfulfilled desire to get the legitimate benefits like Updation of Pension and Improvements in Family Pension.

Respected Madam, you will appreciate that the impending improvements in the Family Pensions Scheme at par with Central Government and RBI would go a long way to provide the much awaited and needed relief to the Spouses of the deceased Bank Employees and Officers and help them reasonably to meet the cost of Medical Insurance while ensuring that the other minimum needs of subsistence were met.

We once again humbly request you Madam to consider the issues of improvements in the Family Pension Scheme and Updation of Pension and extension of Uniform DA Formula to very old Retirees of Pre November 2002 on a highly compassionate grounds as ours is a dwindling population. We are confident that your kind intervention at this juncture will facilitate an early clearance from the Government and IBA.

With Respectful Regards,

Yours Sincerely,

(A. Ramesh Babu)

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