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State Bank of Patiala
Retired Officers' Association (Regd.)
31, NEW GREEN PARK COLONY, PATIALA
(An Affiliate of "CBPRO" - COORDINATION OF BANK
PENSIONERS' AND RETIREES ORGANISATIONS)
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General
Secretary
B.C.Bassi
Patiala
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Circular No. 34 of 2017-20

Dated 24th July 2019

Dear Colleagues,

We give below text of letter sent by CBPRO and AIBRF to the Convener, UFBU and the General Secretaries, Constituents of UFBU, the contents of which are self explicit.

IBA'S MEDICAL INSURANCE SCHEME FOR RETIREES

"As you are aware, the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Govt of India advised IBA vide its communication dated 24th February 2012 to evolve a Medical Insurance Scheme for serving and retired employees of the Banks. IBA in turn put up this proposal as management issue before UBFU at the time of wage negotiations which concluded in April/May 2015. As a result a new medical insurance scheme got introduced both for serving employees and also for the retired employees with effect from October 2015 for serving employees and November 2015 for retired employees. After introduction of IBA's Medical Insurance Scheme during the year 2015 there has been multi fold increase in the premium thereby compelling many of the retirees to opt out of this scheme for the reasons of un-affordability, more particularly those who are family pensioners drawing as low as Rs. 4000 per month pension. The entire amount of annual pension in such cases would not be sufficient to meet out the medical insurance premium. The sky rocketing premium has robbed many pensioners of the benefit under IBA policy which has been otherwise largely helpful to the retirees. Such situation calls for the improvements/modifications in the scheme for retired employees. It is with this view in mind the following suggestions are made for kind consideration:

- a. Since Government communication dated 24.02.2012 did not envisage payment of medical insurance by the retirees, it should be borne by the Bank as in the case of serving employees. It is pertinent to mention that the Executive Directors/Managing Directors/ Chairman and Managing Directors are extended the benefit of medical expenses reimbursement even after retirement without any charge to them as they were entitled during their service. It is therefore discriminatory on the part of the Banks to create a class within the class with regard to extension of medical benefit facility to retired bank employees vis-à-vis the top retired functionaries of the Bank on one side and the serving employees on the other side. There is an urgent need to improve this unfair practice of treating retired bank employees with discrimination.
- b. There should be a common medical insurance policy for serving and retired employees so as to bring down the claim ratio and the resultant annual medical insurance premium.

- c. Since all the retirees are senior and super senior citizens, their medical insurance being a social security measure, the payment of the insurance premium and so also the hospitalization bills be brought under 0% slab of GST
- d. Medical insurance premium in case of single person be lower than the premium charged for the other retired employees having a surviving spouse.
- e. It is also proposed that the retired bank employees of Banks which are instrumentalities of the Government and hence falling within the meaning of State under Article 12 of the Constitution of India should be covered under CGHS after charging a fixed lump sum amount at the time of retirement or at the time of extending the cover to those who have already retired.
- f. Alternatively, the medical facility should be extended by the Banks to the retirees through empanelled hospitals against charging a fixed one-time amount towards medical fee for their life time. The fixed sum should be so decided for different slabs of medical cover with an option to the retired employee to choose the medical slab according to his requirement and wish.
- g. It is requested that the Retirees should not be discriminated and such medical insurance premium should be paid by the Banks.
- h. It is requested to include specially challenged dependent children in the definition of family to provide Medical Insurance benefit.
- i. Those members who had opted out of the scheme due to exorbitant amount of premium should be allowed to rejoin the scheme.

We earnestly request you to take up the issues with IBA and make the scheme meaningfully affordable to all the retirees including Family Pensioners.”

Text of letter sent to Chairman, DMD(CDO), CGM State Bank of India, Central Office, Mumbai

Respected Sir,

We have brought to your kind notice with regard to discrimination meted out to Pensioners/Retirees of erstwhile Associate Banks. It is brought to our notice about the decision of Circle Management Committee of Amaravathi Circle and Trivandrum Circle regarding deputation of a representative of the Bank whenever a Staff Pensioner dies. This decision deserves appreciation. However, we find that this decision may not be applied to erstwhile Associate Bank Retirees, because this information is available only with erstwhile Associate Bank Retirees' Organisations, but not with State Bank of India Pensioners' Association.

You are also aware that the benefits available to State Bank of India Pensioners are completely different from that of erstwhile Associate Bank Retirees. Representatives of not only erstwhile Associate Banks were visiting the residence of the deceased retiree, but also used to go with amount payable under Shradhaanjali Scheme. Most of those who retired from erstwhile Associate Banks and also from State Bank of India with Superannuation benefits of erstwhile Associate Banks, are members of erstwhile Associate Bank Retirees' Organisations. Over 75% of retirees/pensioners of erstwhile Associate Banks are members of erstwhile Associate Bank Retirees' Organisations.

Consequently, involvement of erstwhile Associate Banks' Retirees' Organisations would also go a long way in resolving our issues and also bring in a feeling of belonging in erstwhile Associate Bank retirees.

It is unfortunate that erstwhile Associate Banks' Retirees' are discriminated in respect of many issues. Some of these issues are as under :

- a. Additional rate of Interest applicable to members of Staff to those Associate Banks' Retirees who retired voluntarily ;
- b. Payment by Staff Welfare Fund in respect of those who have incurred expenditure for treatment of critical illnesses, which is not available to those who retire from erstwhile Associate Banks ;
- c. Not inviting/informing/involving Associate Banks' Retirees and their Associations to the meeting of Staff Pensioners and also to structure meetings.
- d. Non-payment of subsidy in respect of Insurance premium to retirees of erstwhile Associate Banks, which is extended to retirees of State Bank of India.

We do hope that you would agree that such discrimination is unexpected and may also be treated as insult to these retirees, most of whom are in last quartile of their life. Consequently, such discrimination is unlawful and an insult. Therefore, we request your kind indulgence and please order :

- a. Erstwhile Associate Banks' Retirees' Organisations are invited to all meetings including Structured Meetings ;
- b. Payment from Staff Welfare Fund to eligible erstwhile Associate Banks' Retirees to the extent of expenditure incurred for treatment of critical illnesses ;
- c. payment of subsidy in respect of Insurance premium to retirees of erstwhile Associate Banks and/or converting their Retired Employees' Medical Fund Scheme – Policy 'A' into Medical Insurance ;
- d. Revise Pension being paid to erstwhile State Bank of Hyderabad retirees who retired before 1.1.1986, but opted for State Bank of Hyderabad pension, which is identical to SBI Pension ;

Further, Bank Retirees' organisations are representative organisations which are striving for serving Bank retirees by assisting them in finding solutions to their problems. What is applicable to organisation of serving Officers and Workmen are not applicable to bank retirees' organisations and recognition or otherwise of Retirees' Organisations does not affect the status. We would also like to draw your kind attention to the fact that involving Erstwhile Associate Banks' Retirees' Organisations and holding discussions with them would not only help in solving their issues, it would serve the Bank also as expending avoidable time could also be avoided. In the absence of such a mechanism, a lot of time and cost is taken away from the Bank on account of attending to their individual retirees issues/problems. Therefore, we request you to kindly

involve Erstwhile Associate Banks' Retirees' Organisations in all possible ways by treating them as representative organisation/s of Erstwhile Associate Banks' Retirees. We are also enclosing copies of the communication by Amaravati and Trivandrum Circles. A line in reply would be appreciated.

Thanking you, With regards, Sd/- V Sombabu, P D Vaidya, C N Prasad **Conveners**

PAYMENT OF YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION OF ASSOCIATION

The yearly subscription of Association @Rs.500/- had become due for the year 2018-19 w.e.f. 1st April 2018. Still few members have to pay the subscription for the year 2018-19. We shall be grateful if you will please remit the above mentioned amount (if not paid so far) to enable us to bring your account up-to-date. At the Annual General Meeting held on 17th November 2018, the subscription stand increased to Rs.700/- per year w.e.f. 01.04.2019. Please note to remit subscription @Rs.700/- per year from 1st April 2019 forthe year 2019-20.

Further we may add that the account holders have to pay charges for deposit of any cash in the account. Hence we request you to transfer the amount to our Saving Bank A/c No. 55124497548 in the name of State Bank of Patiala Retired Officers' Association (Regd.), Patiala maintained at State Bank of India, Mall Road Branch, Patiala (code 5012) . Please arrange to credit the amount at SBI branch by giving your name & membership number under an intimation to Association.

Greetings to all of you and your family members.

Yours sincerely,

(B.C.Bassi)
General; Secretary