



Office of the General Secretary: Central Park, GT Road (East), PO Sripally, Burdwan 713103, WB
Mobile No. 9007513714/9434013714 : email : asokde2010@gmail.com/aipnbpra@yahoo.com

Circular No.53/2022

Dated: - 29.09.2022

**TO ALL THE CEC MEMBERS OF AIPNBPA FOR CIRCULATION AMONGST THE
MEMBERS**

Dear comrades,

Reg.: Group Mediclaim policy for Bank retirees - renewal for the year 2022 - 2023

Since the last few days we have been anxiously discussing the above issue. We are going to convene a virtual CEC Meeting to decide about our future course of action. Meanwhile we have today sent an SOS appeal to our MD & CEO which is reproduced below for your information and circulation. The other organizational developments that have taken place during the intervening period will be summarized and informed to you in our next Circular.

QUOTE

Date : - 29-09-2022

The Managing Director & CEO,
Punjab National Bank,
HO Corporate Office,
Plot No.4 Sector 10, Dwarka,
New Delhi 110075.

Respected Sir,

Reg.: **An SOS Appeal to you to save the Elder citizens – the Retirees & Pensioners of
Punjab National Bank**
: **Group Mediclaim policy for Bank retirees - renewal for the year 2022 - 2023**

Medical Insurance in the banks were initiated as per the directive of DFS, Govt. of India, vide their letter dated 24th february,2012 addressed to Deputy Chief Executive, Indian Banks Association, Mumbai on the issue of staff welfare fund in public sector banks, in terms which banks may consider the option of group insurance policies for both serving and retired employees. As per the said directive, the medical insurance scheme was included in the 10th BPS for the working employees as well as retirees.

Nowhere in the said communication of Govt. of India, it was mentioned that the Retirees will have to bear this premium from their own pocket. But, contrary to the essence of that directives, IBA formulated separate policies for the retirees. Since the introduction of the scheme in 2015, Banks are bearing the premium for the serving employees while the retirees are forced to bear the cost from their meager pension amount with the urge to save their own lives. Since then every year the premium is skyrocketing, - increasing the premium by more than 600% during the last 7 years, thus throwing the poor retirees in a deplorable situation, with the resultant effect that many of the retirees, specially elder ones and family pensioners have been forced to opt out of the scheme.

Sir, in response to the mail dt. 28.03.2022 from your HRD Department, we, on 31.03.2022, submitted our various suggestions for improving the scheme for your consideration and forwarding to IBA ,which contained 36 points, the most vital 3 of those were:-

- The policy for working staff and retirees should be clubbed. The premium for working staff and retirees should also be the same and for calculation of claim ratio, such single/merged policy should be taken as base.
- The premium for the retirees should be fully borne by the bank as being done for the serving employees.
- As an alternative to the existing scheme, a scheme should be introduced in lines with Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) on payment of a one - time contribution by the retiree, a substantial portion of which may be borne by the bank

But, none of our suggestions as also suggestions of various Retirees' organizations including those of our apex Organization, AIBPARC & the serving Associations' representative UFBU have been incorporated in this year's policy. IBA through its communication dated 13.09.2022 has advised all the member Banks that National Insurance Company Ltd. (NICL) had been selected for the year to handle the above scheme. The IBA and the NICL have also advised the Banks about the rates of premium for renewal of the GMISR. Circular of one Bank (BOI) has already come out and our Bank is also expected to follow within next few days.

The rates quoted have thrown the Retirees and the Family Pensioners at the mercy of Almighty only, because many of them will not be able to bear this exorbitantly increased premium, naturally leaving themselves at the clemency of the destiny.

Sir, being the Sr. Citizens of the Country, residing in a welfare State, serving our glorious Institution – Punjab National Bank for decades, putting our hard toil and sacrifice for the major part of our life for the growth of our beloved Institution, at the fag end of our life, now we are feeling totally dejected and despaired at the developments that are going on regarding this Medical Insurance Policy.

Though we have been continuously demanding a comprehensive and common policy for both the serving and the retirees & fully bearing the Premium cost for the Retirees also by the Bank, till the same is materialized, under the prevailing circumstances where time left is too short, we appeal to you to please consider at least, our following two requests to be implemented in our Bank while issuing the Circular for this year's Medical Insurance Policy.

1. To bear a part of the premium by **minimum subsidization of 25% of the total premium**. It may not be out of place to mention that many a peer banks are coming to the rescue of the retirees in this way. We expect that our bank will be the torch bearer in this sphere.
2. The GST component of the premium be please borne by the Bank.

We feel, it is the only way to make the directives of the Government effective and meaningful in the life of the senior citizens. Please take the decision with human consideration based on welfare of the senior citizens.

Please treat it as a **SOS appeal** from the retiree organisation of our glorious Bank to save the community from an impending disaster.

We will be highly expecting a humanitarian approach to our above SOS message from your good office.

With regards,
Yours sincerely,
Sd/-Asok Kumar De
General Secretary

With warmest Greetings,
Comradely yours,

UNQUOTE



(Asok Kumar De)
General Secretary