

An appeal to all Bank Pensioner brothers. UFBU and AIBEA.

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

10:31 AM

We (Bank Pensioners) are unconsciously causing damage to ourselves.

Let us understand how we are hurting ourselves in general and causing damage to the interests of pre-2002 retirees in particular. Undoubtedly we all agree that all eligible Bank Pensioners are entitled to Pension Updation on the lines of RBI scheme. There is also no doubt that within the community, the pre-2002 retirees are the worst hit while the others are comparatively in a better position. There is also no doubt that the post-2002 retirees are all aware of this fact and that they all sympathise with their senior brothers and that they would not stand in the way of immediate relief being given to pre-2002 retirees.

But, in our anxiety to achieve the goal of Pension Updation for all, as a principle, some of us are in a way taking actions which would result in further delay in bringing solutions, without realising the consequences of our actions, and we are thereby causing more damage to the pre-2002 retirees who are all above 80 years of age and whose number is dwindling fast every day due to death in large numbers. We are thus presiding over the funeral of our own senior brothers.

All of us know that Bank retirees have been orphaned for decades by Bank Managements, IBA, Working Staff Unions and the GOI (Ministry of Finance – DFS). All of them had succeeded in embroiling pensioners' issues in a "Pama Vyuh". Pensioners' matters are now facing complications and it has become a huge task for every one to find ways and means to come out of this "Padma Vyuh". Driven to the wall, a few pensioners have approached the High Courts/Supreme Court. Thanks to the initiative taken by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirma Sitharaman, the IBA saw some sense, though reluctantly and belatedly, and worked out a scheme to benefit the pre-2002 retirees which would result in bringing down the suffering of atleast the dying group of pre-2002 retirees. Even though the demand for Pension Updation for all is justified and legitimate, the Court cases have come very handy for DFS and IBA to defer a decision on 'Updation for all' by illegitimately using the argument of "sub judice". This has suited their lack of will to accept the principle of Pension Updation. UFBU and AIBEA have supported the move of IBA's scheme for pre-2002 retirees even though the fact is that it suits their own vested interests. Pensioners at large fear that this move will result in deferring Pension Updation for all indefinitely. Pensioners' fear is totally justified, given the past inimical attitude of both IBA and UFBU towards pensioners. Meanwhile, the final outcome of Court Cases is getting delayed, mostly due to the well known "adjournment after adjournment" procedures prevailing in the Judiciary, and partly due to certain actions of Pensioners themselves. While this game goes on, the pre-2002 retirees are leaving this world in bunches like dying birds falling to the ground dead.

Singla Case in Supreme Court came up for motion hearing as a solace for Bank Pensioners. Not satisfied with the working of the established Pensioners' organisations and their co-ordinating body AIBPARC, several independent bodies in the names of 'Pensioners' Forum', 'Retirees Front' etc., have sprung up during the last 2 years. Each of these has limited membership and each is engaged in its own way to serve the cause of 'Pension Updation'. Many pensioners do not realise that "legal remedy" involves considerable delays and that the pre-2002 retirees can not afford any more delay because they are hurrying up towards their graves. AIBPARC has already impleaded itself as an interested party in Singla Case through a front. It was hoped that some final outcome could be expected in the case on 2.2.2023, but meanwhile due to All Kerala Retirees Forum impleading itself as another interested party, the case has again faced the axe of delay/adjournment. This was inevitable because judicial procedures involve issuing notices to the respondents, awaiting replies, etc., which consume months of time. And every adjournment in High Court/Supreme Court runs for months, thanks also to the so called "computer generated" hearing dates. Computers generate data only when data is fed manually. Less the said about this, it is better. In view of all these factors, it is desirable that any Pensioners' Forum/Front who may be contemplating of impleading itself in the existing Court Cases must desist from doing so in a hurry. They must also think twice before filing any new Court Case. Instead, they must find alternate avenues to strengthen the existing cases.

IBA and DFS will not decide on Pension Updation so long as Court Cases are pending. It is our foolishness to expect them to ignore Court Cases because they are already unwilling to agree to the principle of Updation and they are already opposing the existing Cases.

Therefore, the Bank Pensioners must now prevail upon UFBU and IBA to immediately give the much needed relief to pre-2002 retirees, while continuing to give cooperation in a sensible and calculative way to expedite the existing Court Cases and to avoid causing any further delay in the Court proceedings. It is hoped that immediate relief to those who deserve it most are given succour forthwith, and that no obstruction is placed on the way of anything good happening to them.

I appeal to all Bank Pensioners not to misunderstand me as a 'divider' of the pensioner community into pre and post 2002 retirees, but to appreciate my opinion in the right spirit.

I appeal to all the constituents of UFBU and the leader of AIBEA in particular to bring the required pressure on IBA for the release of immediate relief for the pre-2002 retirees, pending settlement of the formula for 'Updation to all' in principle at the earliest for the achievement of which too no efforts must be spared.

N.R.R. Rao.

(A pre-2002 Bank Retiree)

3.1.2023.

WE ALL- OCTOGENARIAN BANK PENSIONERS ARE FULLY SUPPORTING THE VIEWS OF SARAVASRI.N.R.R.RAOJI .AND REPEATING THE APPEAL TO ALL CONCERNED WITH A REQUEST FOR SOME IMMEDIATE RELIEF TO THE MOST AGGRIVED GROUP AMOUNG US WITH GREETINGS RAMESH N SBI RETIREE(1999)