ALL INDIA BANK RETIREES' FEDERATION (REGD.)
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6th Conference Slogan- Pension Updation is Right of Bank Retirees

Ref. No. 2025/0033 **Date: 07.05.25**

The Office Bearers/Central Committee Members/ State Committee Chiefs
A.I.B.R.F

Dear Sir,

Re: Pension for ALL

As all of you know, pension scheme was introduced in banking industry in 1995 with retrospective effect from 1.1.1986.

2. Since then, considering long term benefits of this time-tested measure, AIBRF has all the time worked at organizational level to encourage and achieve pension for all on priority basis in last 30 years and have achieved remarkable success in this area.

3. As we all know, while introducing pension scheme in banks, cutoff date was fixed as 1.1.1986 and this benefit was not made available to those retired prior to date to 1.1.1986. AIBRF demanded right from the beginning that pension scheme should be made available to all retirees and the cut off date should be scrapped. Some of the functionaries of AIBRF approached High Court Delhi and subsequently to Supreme Court with the request to provide pension benefits to all retirees. However, WP filed was dismissed in Supreme Court. Thereafter, AIBRF launched action program including Dharna program in Delhi under leadership pf Shri Ramesh Chakravarty, Shri Thomas Mathews, Shri N. C. Chaya and others for payment of Ex-gratia amount in lieu of pension to those retired prior to 1986. Finally, Government of India agreed for payment of ex-gratia to pre-1986 retirees. Initially, it was Rs. 350 P.M. and variable DA thereon to pre-1986 retirees only. Subsequently, because of AIBRF efforts, banks started paying fixed amount of Rs. 1000/- p.m. to spouses of pre-1986 retirees. Later on AIBRF worked at the organizational level periodically for improvements in ex-gratia amount and today ex-gratia amount payable to pre-1986 retirees and their spouses is minimum Rs. 10000/- p.m. **Ex-gratia amount was not only financial help to pre-1986 retirees but symbol of confidence, dignity and respect for thousands of pre-1986 retirees.**

3. As we all know, initial response to pension scheme was unexpectedly low despite the fact that it was one of the best and reliable superannuation benefit, due to lack of proper understanding and misleading information floated about the pension scheme at that time . For organization like AIBRF who had strong belief that pension scheme is the best social welfare measure in post-retirement period, it was very challenging scenario.

4. AIBRF never looked back and continued to work for pension for all. Because of organizational efforts, the following pension options were offered subsequently since 1995

(a) Original Pension option in 1993

(b) Pension option in 1997 because of Supreme Court verdict on strike clause

(c) Pension Option in 2010 which gave option to all eligible left-over retirees, significant and historical achievement of bank retiree movement.

(d) Pension Option in 2015 to officers who took normal VRS and where not member of the pension scheme originally.

(e) Pension Option to Compulsorily Retired persons who were not member of pension scheme originally in 2018

(f) Pension Option to eligible Resignees in 2024

5.With above pension option, almost all eligible retirees have become pensioners and ratio of pensioners is more than 99 percent today which was almost 50 percent or below in 1995. **AIBRF has relentlessly worked all the years at the organizational work to achieve the ratio close to 100 percent. It is dramatic and historical development in the life of lakhs of bank retirees who are leading very respectable and dignified life.**

6. However despite the above achievements, there is one section of bank retiree who are not still getting pension. **They are those who were eligible but could not exercise the option in time due to some personal pressing reasons or non-availability of information about the option in time**.

7. AIBRF has been pursuing demand of pension option to this group for last few years , but with no success so far. **In the absence of pension their day to day life is becoming very difficult and challenging.** AIBRF owes social responsibility towards them and proposes to make further efforts and help and support them to get pensioner benefits or at least some ex-gratia payment.

8.In order to draw effective strategy to pursue the demand, we request all our affiliates to collect the information and **send us names and contact numbers of such eligible left over retirees** to create reliable data base.

9. We hope the affiliates appreciate significance and contribute in AIBRF dream to provide pensionary benefits to each and every eligible retiree.

With Warm Greetings

Yours Sincerely,

(S. C. JAIN)
GENERAL SECRETARY