



ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION

(Registered under the Trade Unions Act 1926, Registration No.:3427/Delhi)

C/o Bank of India, Parliament Street Branch

PTI Building, 4, Parliament Street, New Delhi: 110001

Phone:011-23730096 Tel/Fax 23719431

E-Mail: aiboc.sectt@gmail.com

To,

Date: 25/03/2017

Shri Arun Jaitley

Hon'ble Finance Minister of India

New Delhi

Subject: Emergent communique concerning a few grave issues encountering the officers/employees of the Banks at the behest of the Bank Regulator/Management in collaboration with the govt. functionaries that might endanger the future of the Banks.

Respected Sir,

The contribution of Bank Officers for the call of the nation is well known. In the recent past, the role played by them in implementing the Jandhan scheme, Mudra loan scheme and demonetisation is well documented. Bankers have been playing a very dominant role in taking various schemes of the Government to the general public. All this and the performance evaluation of the banks by the Government, media and the general public on Banks irrespective of the resources spent for implementing the Government policies are applying enormous pressure

on Banks. Notwithstanding all these, Bank Officers are ready to be in attendance in case of any emergency.

However, the Reserve Bank of India issued a notification late in the evening on 24/03/2017 which reached the Banks very late in the night. The notification instructed all Agency Bank branches dealing with government business to remain open for public on Saturday i.e. 25th March and Sunday i.e. 26th March 2017 and on all other days between 25th March to 1st April 2017 for transacting Government Business. Now, because of this short notice diktat sort of thing, we have to forego all our plans and personal lives and attend offices sacrificing the weekends and all the festivals. It is also to be noted that *Chaitra Navaratri*, a multi-day Hindu Festival celebrated in many parts of the country begins from 28th March. *Ugadi*, *Gudi Padwa* and many other festivals come in between the period from 25th March to 1st April.

It is pertinent to note that our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Digital India Programme almost two years ago and since then he has left no stone unturned to materialize this programme. One of the primary initiatives of Digital India programme was "e-governance;" the aim was to simplify government business processes by introduction of IT, online interface and tracking across all the departments, online rendering of services to the public at large, receipt and payments through online mode, etc. Now, at an era when almost all the gov't departments have transformed themselves into digital platform, there is absolutely no necessity to issue a diktat to open all the banks to enable tax and other revenue collections. This sudden notification by the RBI is a

major setback for the successful implementation of Digital India Programme. Even otherwise, there are 4 full working days before the end of the financial year which is more than adequate and , if need be, Officers could sit till late in the night on the 31st March to complete the job of collecting taxes as done every year.

Ever since its introduction, Bank Managements have been targeting these holidays and call Officers to work on these holidays under one pretext or other. The 2nd and 4th Saturdays have been declared as holidays as per the Xth Bipartite. It was the result of a lot of sacrifice. Moreover, the compensation being paid for working on these holidays is very meagre that it is well below the amount of compensation being paid to workmen. It also is not uniform and varies from bank to bank.

More than anything, the necessity for a quality life is very important particularly in times of such stress. The pressure and trauma bankers undergo implementing jandhan, mudra, demonetization and other government sponsored schemes is tremendous. They are pitted against the new generation private sector and foreign banks when their performance is evaluated without taking into account their contribution for implementing Government schemes. Working under such an environment, officers of the banks deserve periodical rest, recuperation and a quality life which is now denied to them, more often.

Sir, we have left with no other option but to come to you for our rescue. We sincerely hope that action would be taken at the earliest to stop the bank managements calling officers to work on holidays without any emergency and

direct them to settle the issue of decent uniform payment of compensation, whenever exigency to work on holiday arises. cure the organization of its regulator/management ills or else we would be compelled to contemplate organisational steps including mass movements and employee mobilization.

Yours most faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. T. Franco', written over a horizontal line.

(D. T. Franco)

General Secretary

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