



# ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION

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

State Bank of India Officers' Association

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Circular No. 2017/20

Date: 05.04.2017

## To All Affiliates/State Units/ Members

Dear Comrades,

### **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING** **ORGANISED BY AIBOC, WEST BENGAL STATE UNIT**

It perhaps could happen only in Kolkata- the city of revolution, the city of joy. At the call of AIBOC, West Bengal State Unit, a Special General Meeting was organised at the prestigious and historic Centenary Hall, Calcutta University within a short notice of 2 days. The call evoked massive response as Bank Officers from the city as well as from the districts, from various affiliates and units congregated in the hall and the entire hall bedecked with colourful posters and banners was soon overflowing with members, who spontaneously responded to the call of the State Unit to attend the meeting. In fact, this was the first such General Meeting the undersigned addressed after assuming the responsibility of General Secretary of AIBOC.

The turnaround was over 1500 plus members even in this crucial month of March as comrades braved the odds and constraints to be present in the historic meeting. As the proverb says "Morning shows the day", the undersigned was enough confident about the success of today's meeting as he had seldom witnessed such a grand and hearty welcome that he was accorded the previous night on his arrival at NSCBI Airport Kolkata, by over 150 members including lady members at 8:00 pm in the evening. The dais was befittingly designed to mark the present struggle of our Confederation with graffiti's like "We demand 5 days banking" and "Save Public Sector- Save the Nation". The auditorium was resonating and reverberating with slogans being raised by the comrades to the highest pitch, which added a new dimension to the meeting. There was an unmistakable aura of optimism and determination amongst all present in the meeting.

Com. Soumya Datta, the State Unit President and Jt. General Secretary of AIBOC presided over the meeting. He accorded a warm welcome to all present in the auditorium including the esteemed seniors, who had served the organisation. The presidium consisted of Com Sanjay Das, Secretary, WB State Unit and General Secretary, Bank of India Officers' Association Eastern India Branches, Com S Roy Chowdhury, General Secretary UCO Bank Officers' Association and Advisor, AIBOC, Com Kaushik Ghosh, General Secretary UBI Officers' Association and Jt General Secretary, AIBOC, Com Dipankar Mitra, General Secretary, UCO Bank Officers' Association, WB State Unit, Com DP Sen, President AINBOF, WB State Unit and AGS , UCO Bank Officers' Association and the undersigned.

At the outset, Com Sanjay Das, Secretary, WB State Unit delivered his welcome address. In his address he congratulated the membership for being present in the historic meet organised at a short notice and stressed upon the issues that were pertinent in the present scenario of India's economy. He mentioned that the need of the hour was to protest against the design of the government and to resist the slow destruction of Banks by different ways. His deliberation was short, crisp and to the point. Next the President invited Com. S Roy Chowdhury to address the gathering. Com. Roy Chowdhury, a veteran leader and an advisor of AIBOC, very lucidly touched upon the issues that were affecting our Banks and the Indian economy as a whole ranging from the rising NPAs of corporate defaulters to the ill effect of merger and introduction of CTC and variable pays. He spoke about the concept of 'consent NPAs', where willful defaulters were deliberately accorded greater exposure with the full knowledge that the monies would not be recovered. He also urged upon the youth to actively participate in this struggle and come forward as they were the backbone of any organization. He ended with the same tone of staying united and to march ahead. Com. Soumya Datta then introduced the undersigned to the audience and before inviting to address the august gathering, he raised some pertinent points that were close to the heart of members viz. i) Vision of AIBOC- The roadmap ahead ii) Connecting with the youth and the issues of lady comrades iii) Work life balance iv) Present decision of Govts announcement of curtailment of benefits of the

employees/officials of 10 banks v) Unmasking the corporate defaulters vi) Dedicated research wing of AIBOC vii) Forced selling of third party products viii) Threat imposed by the Payment Banks ix) Improvement of Pension/Family Pension and Mediclaim related issues .

The undersigned during his speech thanked each and every member present for their overwhelming support to the Confederation and the huge turnout in just a short notice of just 2 days. The undersigned mentioned specifically that it could happen only in Kolkata that such a massive gathering could be organised in this city, which he considered as his second home and all the members as part of his family. The undersigned endeavoured to touch upon all the points flagged by the President and also cover all other areas covering all the recent issues that had cropped up related to the Banking industry and the Indian economy as a whole. He categorically stated that AIBOC had taken a decision not to accept the terms set by the Management of the 10 Banks to sign the MoU. If at all, AIBOC would set it's own terms for the turn around. IIM Ahmedabad would be approached to prepare a detailed revival scheme to turn around Banks. He also emphatically stated that AIBOC along with other organization will not allow the government to implement the curtailment of benefits to the members at any cost. He also questioned the decision of the Govt of awarding licenses to the entities like Reliance, Airtel, Vodafone and PayTm to set up Payment Bank. AIBOC would firmly question the reason for not disclosing the names of Corporate defaulters. He urged upon all the members to come forward to find an alternate way for the growth of this country's economy through scientific and collective approach by the PSBs. And this could only be done if all members could come forward and work for the goal with all earnestness. He also said that merger was a step towards privatization and it should be prevented at any cost. He also pointed out that the AIBOC from now onwards will start the movement against the evil conspiracies of the management and the government as a whole and will stand by the common people, the small traders, small farmers and others so that the Indian economy was not destroyed by the whimsical decisions of the rulers. He also stated that AIBOC will have a dedicated research wing equipped with modern technologies to cater to different queries and problems at any time anywhere. He also expressed his view that a lady representative should be inducted in the leadership of AIBOC shortly. He also stated that AIBOC would organise Youth cadre Camps throughout the country to identify potential leaders, who would carry on the baton in the days to come. In the next one year, all the targets would be accomplished if all affiliates would support and come forward to work as a team. He unequivocally supported the demand for 5 day week and he was certain that it would be accomplished in the next bipartite negotiation. He sought the support of each and every member for the bigger struggle to save the Public Sector, to save the nation and to protect the sovereignty of the country. Before concluding, the undersigned again congratulated the members for the amazing response and also promised to stay beside each and every member and also to live up to their expectations.

Com Koushik Ghosh while offering the vote of thanks congratulated the leadership for taking the stance of not signing the MoU on the dotted lines as was being insisted upon. He too, thanked all the members for being present in the meeting and assured the AIBOC leadership that WB State Unit would strive to fulfill the expectations of the leadership and carry out all organizational directives diligently.

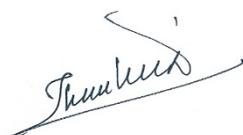
The meeting ended with the rendition of the song "We shall overcome", which reverberated in the entire hall with all members joining in wholeheartedly.

So, comrades let us look forward, remain focused, stay united and fight together to save the banking sector and the nation as a whole.

Looking forward to all your valuable suggestions, actions and urge upon you to join the movement to March Forward.

With warm greetings. Always at your service.

Comradely yours,



(D.T. Franco)

**General Secretary**

