

ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION



(Registered under the Trade Unions Act 1926, Registration No.3427/Delhi)
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To All Affiliates (Please Circulate)

Dear Comrades,

ATTACK ON BANKERS

We reproduce our letter no. AIBOC/2018/77 dated 05.10.2018 on the captioned subject, which has been sent to the Chairman, Indian Banks' Association.

With greetings,

Yours sincerely,

(Soumya Datta)
General Secretary

Text of letter reference No. AIBOC/2018/77 dated 05.10.2018

Shri Sunil Mehta
Chairman
Indian Banks' Association
Cuffee Parade, Mumbai

Dear Sir,

ATTACK ON BANKERS

At the outset, on behalf of All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), we wish to convey our greetings to your good office for being elected as Chairman of Indian Banks' Association.

2. With deep consternation, we wish to bring to your kind attention, the increasing trend of vitriolic attacks by politicians, elected representatives on Banks and Bank employees, thus fomenting public wrath. We place on record our sincere appreciation to the Department of Financial Services, Government of India, for having taken due cognizance of the vulnerability of bank employees and issued appropriate advisory.

3. We are deeply anguished to note the continued attack on the banks and bankers in many parts of the country. Elected representatives have been making derogatory remarks on the officers and have even aired views that officers will be arrested if recovery steps are pursued. In Karnataka, an FIR was filed against a bank officer for initiating recovery measures. In fact, we have come across press statements of elected Representatives threatening action against bankers.

4. We wish to draw your kind attention to another incident of brutal assault on Bank officials that had occurred at Bhopal yesterday (i.e. 04/10/2018), where the recovery team including a lady official of a bank was beaten up ruthlessly by the borrower and guarantor. We have information that one of the officials, a Chief Manager, has been severely injured to the extent that he could lose two of his fingers.

5. Sir, you are aware that officers and staff are bound by the recovery policies framed by each bank. It is a known fact that operating staff have no discretion or freedom to stop recovery measures, unless specific directions are issued to them. If there is any lapse on the part of officers for adhering to extant norms on following up measures, Officers are subjected to disciplinary procedure for lapses. The recovery of loans is deferred only in case of natural calamity, upon proclamation by the respective State Government.

6. It is expected that Governments, elected representatives and persons in responsible positions should initiate appropriate steps to declare calamity to provide relief to farmers and the borrowers. Instead of this, an environment of fear psychosis is being created, threatening the bankers and preventing them from performing their duties and making them vulnerable to attacks. At this critical phase which the public sector banks are traversing, the same is likely to dent the culture of repayment and the very institution of banking, in addition to causing anxiety and uncertainty in banking fraternity. While we emphatically affirm that we are ever-ready to work for the welfare of the farmers, who form the backbone of this country, all Governments should come forward with possible and plausible measures in keeping with the laid down norms.

7. We request your good office to take up the matter with the Finance/Home Ministry to issue appropriate instructions immediately to the State Governments exhorting swift and stringent action against any attempt of threats to banking fraternity and urging government machinery to ensure adherence to the established way of helping the famers and the borrowers by providing relief through restructuring/rescheduling of loans within the norms framed by the Reserve Bank of India.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Soumya Datta)
General Secretary