

## **HISTORIC FIRST GENERAL BODY CONFERENCE OF AIBPARC HELD IN NEW DELHI ON 25TH NOVEMBER, 2012 – A MARVELLOUS DISPLAY OF UNITY AND SOLIDARITY**

It was a chilly winter morning in the capital city of New Delhi. Several hundred Senior Citizens of the Banking Industry thronged the Ram Jash School Auditorium in Paharganj, New Delhi. The volunteers from AIBOC, Delhi State Unit made elaborate arrangements and ensured that the delegates and other invitees were made comfortable. The ever smiling presence of Com. Harvinder Singh, General Secretary, All India Nationalised Bank Officers' Federation (now General Secretary of All India Bank Officers' Confederation) was a source of inspiration and satisfaction.

The inaugural session was graced by Smt. Krishna Tirath, Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Com. D. Raja, General Secretary, CPI, Com. P.S. Murthy, General Secretary, State Bank of India Pensioners' Association, Com. P.K. Sarkar, President, AIBOC, Com. Harvinder Singh, General Secretary of AINBOF, Com. S.R. Sen Gupta, Joint Convenor, AIBPARC and Com. Patki who co-ordinated the inaugural session.

Com. Harvinder commenced the session with a brief welcome address. In particular, he extended a warm welcome to Smt. Krishna Tirath, Union Minister for her sentimental attachment to the Trade Union movement of the Bank Employees and Officers and Com. Raja, veteran Trade Union leader of the country and solicited their support.

Com. Raja, the first speaker of the session told the gathering that AIBOC was the driving force behind this organization. He praised the role of UFBU in the Banking Sector and strongly advocated Universal Pension coverage for all the Indians. He stated that the Senior Citizens had undergone huge suffering in their serving days and they deserve better reward from the Society and the Government.

Com. P .K.Sarkar, President, AIBOC narrated the sequence of events that started at Bhubaneshwar and culminated at New Delhi, by passing through Nagpur, Kolkata and Chennai. He thanked Com. G.D. Nadaf, former General Secretary of AIBOC for realizing the dream of an Organisation for the elders of the Banking Industry. He explained in detail to Hon'ble Union Minister that unlike the Pensioners of Central and State Governments, the Pensioners of the Banking Industry were suffering from many anomalies, aberrations and distortions which need immediate correction. He strongly advocated that all the demands of AIBPARC deserved serious consideration.

Com. P.P.S. Murthy, General Secretary, Federation of State Bank of India Pensioners' Associations assured his Organisation's full co-operation and co-ordination to AIBPARC's struggles for securing benefits to Pensioners of Banking Industry.

Smt. Krishna Tirath, Union Minister expressed her solidarity with the demands of the Bank Retirees and felt that their aspirations were mostly on the line of those of Central Government Pensioners. She was welcoming in the birth of the new Organisation – AIBPARC.

Com. S.R. Sen Gupta, Joint Convenor, AIBPARC thanked all the leaders,

activists, veterans and announced that the membership of the organization had already crossed 25000 within a short time and would emerge as the sole spokesman of the Bank Retirees and Pensioners.

The business session started with Com. P.K. Sarkar in the chair. Com. S.R. Sen Gupta placed a detailed written report containing among others, up-dated accounts, the proposal for amendment to the Constitution and Official Resolutions.

Delegates took part in the deliberation on the following issues:

- Co-operation needed from the affiliates of working comrades in consolidation of the retirees
  - Protection of better interest rates for the retirees
  - Discrimination in granting of DA to Pensioners on a half-yearly basis
  - Left out optees
  - Increased quantum of Gratuity for the retirees
  - Pathetic plight of Pre 01.01.1986 Retirees
  - Formation of grievance redressal Cell in all the Banks for Retirees
  - Need for a comprehensive and uniform Medical Benefit/Hospitalisation Scheme for the Retirees
  - Earmarking a larger share of Welfare funds for the Pensioners
- After Com. Sen Gupta's detailed reply to the various issues raised by the delegates, the house adopted the report and approved the resolutions placed before it. The election of Office-bearers was then conducted and the list of elected Office-bearers and nominated members to the Governing Council was announced. Com. P.K. Sarkar welcomed the newly formed team and expressed optimism that the Organisation would ensure the welfare of retirees in the Banking sector. Com. Harvinder Singh spoke that Delhi remained witness to the birth of both AIBOC in 1985 and AIBPARC in 2012. Com. K.V. Acharya, President elect informed that the entire team would work united for the welfare of the Retirees of the Banking Industry.