



ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS' & RETIREES' CONFEDERATION



(A.I.B.P.A.R.C.)
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**(For circulation among members of the governing council of AIBPARC,
State Secretaries, Special Invitees and Advisors.)**

Dear Comrade,

**Sub : Historical gathering at the Institution of Engineers (Kolkata) on 28th June, 2019
to hear the speech of eminent speakers on the subject “Social Security to Bank
pensioners and retirees – a reality or a myth.””**

The occasion was Com. S.R. Sengupta memorial lecture. It was 2-30 p.m. Nature was slightly magnanimous by offering a cloudy day in the pre-monsoon noon at Kolkata. Taking full advantage of the situation, a crowd of unimaginable size attended the hall. The organizers managed to place 200 additional chairs inside and also on the dais and it was filled up immediately; 200 people stood inside the house; another 200 stood in a suffocating situation at the staircase; a few hundred stood outside the hall and many left being disgusted with inability to enter. It has been a good lesson to the organisation for coming days and the huge turn up is a pointer to two things – the pensioners are retired but not tired and no meeting should be called in any hall where capacity is less than 1000.

- Shri T.C. Choudhury, President, State Committee, welcomed the leaders and the members. He hoped that the present as well as the future generation will remember the contribution of Com. S. R. Sengupta and the subject matter of today's memorial lecture has a very good relevance with the personality of Com. Sengupta. He made a specific mention of the present state of affairs of the group medical scheme which in fact is a denial of social security to the pensioners with a scanty income. He observed that the new pensioners after retirement would face the same situation in group mediclaim scheme and that is why the fight of existing pensioners should be orchestrated with that of the new generation of employees/officers.
- Shri S. Sarkar, GS, AIBPARC, summarized the contribution of Com. Sengupta in brief. He highlighted 3 issues : (1) he could transcend the boundaries of the banks and make the officers' movement part and parcel of the movement of the working class of the country, (2) he was instrumental in floating UFBU along with other contemporary leaders to combat a peculiar situation that arose in UCO Bank and it ultimately proved to be an epoch-making incident, (3) the emergence of AIBOC, a revolutionary happening in the banking industry popularized two names in the household and they are Com. R.N. Godbole and Com. S.R. Sengupta. He welcomed Com. Samir Ghosh, GS, AIRBEA as a person under whose leadership the pensioners of RBI got updation; he welcomed Com. K.V. Acharya, President, AIBPARC and Joint Convenor, CBPRO as the symbol of the hopes and aspirations of the entire community of retirees of the banking sector; he welcomed Com. Soumya Datta, GS, AIBOC as the most militant leader of the industry who has made a proud declaration that he would not forget the issue of retirees at the time of signing the bipartite settlement; he welcomed Com. Sanjay Das, Secretary, AIBOC State Committee for his bountiful help and cooperation to retirees in all possible manner. He concluded his speech by saying that a message should loudly go from this memorial lecture to the society, the government, the IBA and the bureaucracy that social justice must be extended to bank retirees who sacrificed their yesteryears for

the cause of nation building.

- Com. Sanjay Das, Secretary, AIBOC, West Bengal State Unit and a very important AIBOC leader at the national level greeted the conference with the following observation : The present government at the centre has come with a huge mandate of the people and it can be naturally expected that they will have a huge responsibility towards different segments of society including extension of justice to the long neglected retirees of the banking sector ; he conveyed his revolutionary greetings to existing and past employees of RBI through Com. Samir Ghosh for their massive fight in achieving updation of pension and creating a model for the banking sector; he informed the house that AIBOC in its Bengaluru meeting took decisions for series of agitational programmes and requested the retirees to be a party to it. He remembered the contribution of Com. S.R. Sengupta to the movement of supervisory cadre in the industry.
- Com. Samir Ghosh, GS, AIRBEA, complimented the huge gathering and hoped that such an enthusiastic community can create any miracle. Remembering his long association with Com. S.R. Sengupta, he observed that he looked upon him as his elder brother in the trade union movement and continued his close relationship with him till the days of formation of FUTURE. He thanked the organizers for giving him a very good opportunity to be personally acquainted with leaders like Com. K.V. Acharya and Com. Soumya Datta and exchange views with them. He narrated the long history of RBI employees and officers for almost a decade in getting pension updation, role of different RBI governors and the board, the prolonged legal battle and the ultimate achievement. He observed that his organisation fully supported the principled stand of AIBOC in the matter of getting full mandate for negotiation and also the fight for updation of pension by the retirees of the industry. He informed the house that GOI was hesitant to allow pension updation in RBI because it had larger ramifications. Now when it has been allowed in RBI, the bank retirees have a good cause to get it immediately.
- Com. K.V. Acharya, started his speech in the midst of thundering applaud of the crowd. He paid glowing tribute to the contribution of Com. S.R. Sengupta in building up the movement of officers in the country and also organizing the retirees under the banner of AIBPARC being floated by AIBOC. He referred the historical event of the emergence of AIBOC under the leadership of Com. R.N. Godbole and Com. S.R. Sengupta and observed that the present generation of AIBOC leadership has virtually been created under the direct supervision and care of these two leaders. He narrated all the events starting from the signing of pension agreements in the years 1993 and 1994 by organisations of award staff and officers respectively, the formulation of Pension Regulation in the year 1995, the existence of a clear cut regulation (35.1) in terms of which the provision of updation to future retirees has been clearly spelt out and also the incorporation of a specific clause to the effect that in case of any dispute, reference is to be made to the pension rules made applicable for central government employees. He observed that it was a matter of great regret that government and IBA were overlooking these very important provisions of Pension Regulations and citing the grounds of paying capacity of banks for non-payment. He further told that the pension fund was healthy and stubborn and it was a statutory responsibility of each bank to make it self sufficient and adequate after making valuation by government approved actuary at every financial year. He recalled the massive contribution of AIBPARC in popularizing the concept of updation of pension in the true sense of the term and referred to huge mobilization of retirees on streets at different centres. He urged upon IBA and UFBU to sort out the issues mentioned in the Record Note at the earliest opportunity. He thanked AIBOC for its proactive support to the cause of retirees and promised that AIBPARC will go all out to support the agitation call given by AIBOC. He concluded his speech with vociferous demand that AIBPARC and other retiree organisations must be called at the time of negotiation.
- Com. Soumya Datta, GS, AIBOC was given a thundering applaud. He expressed thanks and admiration to the huge crowd who attended the lecture at mid-noon. He complemented Com. S.R. Sengupta as an uncompromising leader who played the role of a friend, philosopher and guide to the entire banking fraternity. He seized the opportunity of profusely thanking Com. Samir Ghosh for the remarkable victory won by the past and present employees and officers of RBI. He hoped that this

update in pension will have a far reaching impact on the movement of pensioners in banks. With claps from the audience, he declared that this bipartite has a very great significance for the retirees because it is probably the last one where the leaders of AIBOC on negotiation table are covered under Pension Regulation and in the next one falling due in 2022 will be handled by leaders covered under the new pension scheme. Since the people under NPS are suffering from great uncertainty, there must be a finest possible orchestration of movement for the past and the present ones in the interest of both. He referred to the holding of a meeting at the call of AIBOC of all the retiree organisations at Delhi where the views of all concerned were heard with patience and this liaison will also continue in days to come. He referred to the prolonged battle launched by AIBOC in the matter of merger of banks both in the legal front and in demonstrative actions. He lamented that most of the constituents of UFBU did not take the issue very seriously as AIBOC and the day of merger will continue to remain a black day for the industry. He asked the pensioners to open twitter accounts and use it extensively to raise and reflect the voice of retirees in the proper forum. He described the subject of memorial lecture as a most relevant one. He opined that social security means the right to dignified living of a citizen which means food, shelter, medical facilities and security. This demand is the most justified one and it should find favour with the state and society. He concluded his speech with an assurance and an appeal. He observed that AIBOC will not forget its duty to the seniors and the organisation of seniors should come forward to participate in all agitations called by AIBOC. The details of such agitations will be circulated shortly.

- Com. Subrata Sarkar, DGS, AIBPARC moved vote of thanks.

The historical gathering ended with national anthem.

**The entire function has been video graphed. The link is
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYPpVFLyTi2SJU5TjP1KnAw>
(The subscribe button is to be pressed.)**

With best wishes,

(SUPRITA SARKAR)
GENERAL SECRETARY