

SBI PENSIONERS' BULLETIN

A quarterly publication in Malayalam and English by SBI Pensioners' Association (Kerala),
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From the Editor's Desk

In our last issue, we had informed you of the successful Dharnas in Mumbai and New Delhi staged by our members and about the judgment of the Madras High Court directing the Government to consider the Bank's proposal dated 19.4.2006 in respect of 7th Bipartite retirees, within 3 months from receipt of the judgment copy. The period allowed by the Court is over but unfortunately both the Management and the Government have so far remained unhelpful and our issues thus remain unresolved. The Government continue to be adamant and the information received from close quarters indicate that the matter has been referred to the Law Ministry and the Government is contemplating to file a review petition before the honourable Court. In the meantime, the Petitioners in Chennai have filed a review petition seeking relief at 50% to be effective from the date of their retirements.

Starting with a visit to the Corporate Centre, Mumbai in January 2008 for a discussion with the Chairman and handing over to him a memorandum detailing our pending issues, meeting the Finance Secretary & Joint Secretary (Finance) separately, submission of a Memorandum through all the Members of Parliament representing various States in the country, displaying the strength of pensioners by organising dharnas/demonstrations in Mumbai & Delhi, attending structured meetings & Pensioners' meets, sending umpteen number of communications to the Corporate Centre/LHOs on various issues, joining the serving Organisations in their dharnas/demonstrations, etc., were the highlights of the year that has gone by. All these attempts on our part have produced absolutely no result and all the officials of the Bank and the Government, whom we met, were offering lip

sympathy and we have spent another precious year with misplaced optimism. The Government had no hesitation whatsoever in implementing the recommendations of the 6th Pay commission giving substantial increases in pension/family pension to its own employees but they are reluctant to revive the age-old formula of 50% pension to SBI employees, despite the Court directives and also specific confirmation from the Bank about its capacity to pay without any financial help from the Government.

Against the above backdrop, legal action is the only option. There are many writ petitions pending in various High Courts since 2002. Hearing has just commenced in the Delhi case. Interim orders were issued in the Hyderabad case where the Bank has filed an appeal. Madras High Court has directed the GOI to consider the SBI proposal of April 2006 but the Government is planning to file a review petition. In the other High Courts including Kerala, hearing is yet to start. We now call upon the new team of office-bearers of our Federation to vigorously pursue the Court cases by engaging the most talented and reputed Advocates to fight our case and let us not rest until the Bank/ Government succumbs to the pressure.

Bulletin Subscription

April 2009 to March 2010

Members are requested to remit Rs.60/- towards annual subscription before 31st March, 2009 through the respective District Secretaries.

SBI PENSIONERS RESENT UNFAIR DEAL

Reproduced below is an article which appeared in a monthly magazine named "Power Politics" which is an independent voice for public good published by Power Publisher Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi:-

Quote: **A matter of Justice:** One of the age-old traditions for which India has been known the world over is related to the value we attach to the aged and old, those who have given new generations so much to build on and enjoy in life. The concept of pension for employees after their retirement from active service can be viewed as a derivative of this tradition. As aptly observed by the Supreme Court of India way back in 1982, "*Pension is neither a bounty nor a matter of grace depending upon the sweet will of the employer, nor an ex-gratia payment. It is a payment for the past service rendered. It is a social welfare measure rendering socio-economic justice to those who in the hey-day of their life ceaselessly toiled for the employer on an assurance that in their old age they would not be left in the lurch.*"

But what about the policy of the Government in regard to the pensioners of State Bank of India? It hardly reflects an enlightened definition of the pension scheme. There is no socio-economic justice but humiliation all the way for those who once ceaselessly toiled and gave their best to the system.

One of the established rules of the Bank itself is that everyone should be getting pension equivalent to 50 per cent of his or her last drawn salary. But there are different scales for different groups of retirees. Those who retired between November 1, 1987 and October 30, 1992 get 28.71 % of the last salary, between November 1, 1992 and October 31, 1997, 40%, November 1, 1997 and October 31, 2002, over 30% and from November 1, 2002 onwards 50% (upto salary of Rs.21,040) and 40% over the above salary). In the process, the situation today is so ironical that one former Chairman of the Bank who retired in 1997 is today getting pension less than a recently retired Clerk of the same organisation.

The Family Pension scheme introduced in 1986 following a judgment of the Apex Court has also got a raw deal under the Government's policy. As against 30% for all categories of pensioners, the government revised family pension scheme effective from May 1, 2005 which envisages payment at the rate of 15, 20 and 30 per cent in different categories. Also, benefit of 100 per cent DA neutralization effective from May 1, 2005 has not been extended to the old retirees.

There is something terribly wrong indeed with the existing policy on the Bank pension. **The Federation of SBI Pensioners, along with its all 14 Affiliates, has been running from pillar to**

post for the last 20 years to set the matter right. On October 6, 2008 a large number of pensioners, in the age group of 65-90 years, from various parts of the country also participated in a peaceful dharna at Jantar Mantar in the Capital demanding equity, fair play and natural justice in the whole system. Similar rallies were held in different parts of the country.

And, ironically, even our so-called independent and fair Fourth Estate cares a fig. The media have their own social obligations to voice a humane agenda. But did we have so far any news item on the pensioners' case in any of our press and T.V. channels! - Unquote.

MEMORANDUM TO M.Ps OF KERALA

On 24.11.2008, we had sent a memorandum to all the Members of Parliament representing Kerala highlighting the grievances of Pensioners/Family pensioners of SBI with a request to consider our problems sympathetically and move the Finance Ministry (Banking Division) officials for redressal of the grievances. We have also requested our MPs to raise the issue in the Parliament by way of a "starred question". The memorandum is reproduced below for the information of our members:-

Gist of Grievances of Pensioners/Family Pensioners of State Bank of India

- 1) **The Federation of Pensioners Associations of State Bank of India is an All-India Body of about 90,000 Pensioners and it is the sole organisation representing SBI Pensioners.**
- 2) **State Bank Pensioners are receiving pension for over 150 years out of a Pension Fund created by the Bank from its own profit. No payment is required to be made from Central Government Funds.**
- 3) **Four wage revisions have taken place in the Bank during the last 20 years but pension has not been revised. Many Pensioners are not receiving 50% of the last drawn pay as pension – they get 28% to 31% and a few of them get 40%.**
- 4) **The issues pending for the last 20 years are as under:**
 - a. **50% Pension to all retirees**
 - b. **30% Pension to all Family Pensioners**
 - c. **100% neutralization of dearness relief to all pensioners/family pensioners. Review and upgradation of pension to all previous retirees in relation to currency salary revision. Today, the pension of the**

Top Executive of State Bank who retired prior to 1987 is Rs.10,621/- whereas the pension of a Clerk who retired in 2006 is Rs.10,772/-

- 5) ***The Chairman of SBI has no powers to give even one rupee extra to a pensioner, as all the powers are vested with the Government under Section 50(o) of the State Bank of India Act.***
- 6) ***Pensioners who retired prior to November 1987 were not compensated for DA merger, which resulted in reduction in the monthly gross pension and large amounts were recovered from the pension already paid.***
- 7) ***Due to non-revision of pension, those who retired during 1987 and 1993 are even now receiving only 31% of their basic salary as pension.***
- 8) ***Due to stipulation of artificial and illogical ceiling of Rs.4,250/ (maximum) during 1993 and 1999 a situation has developed when officials belonging to nine scales of pay are receiving the same pension which is totally unrelated to the pay drawn by them at the time of retirement. This is against the principles of equity and natural justice. This resulted in one more anomaly – i.e: Pension of a Junior Officer drawing salary of Rs.9,200/- and the Pension of the topmost Executive of the Bank (Deputy Managing Director) drawing salary of Rs.14,800/- were fixed at Rs.4,250/- (maximum). Agreements are entered into ignoring the Supreme Court's pronouncements in a number of cases.***
- 9) ***As per accepted norms, pension is calculated on the last drawn salary of the employee. But , in State Bank of India, Pension for the employees who retired between 1997 and 2002 was calculated on***

the salary drawn by them prior to 1997 as if no wage revision has taken place. Actually wage revisions have taken place in 1997 and also 2002 and therefore in respect of those who were drawing salary based on the 1997 settlement and thereafter retired during this period , pension should have been calculated on the salary last drawn by them. This anomalous fitment remains unchanged even after the lapse of a decade. Employees who retired between November 2002 and April 2005 are also deprived of similar benefit.

- 10) ***Family Pension: Our demand for family pension is identical to the recommendations of the 5th Pay Commission implemented for Central Government employees.***
- 11) ***100% neutralization of D.A: This formula has been made applicable to Pensioners who retired after 2002 but not extended to all the earlier retirees.***
- 12) ***Updation: The principle of updation has been implemented 10 years back for Central Government pensioners and the Reserve Bank of India also implemented it for their employees. Since it was not done in SBI , a clerk who retired in May 2006 is drawing more pension than the highest Executive of the Bank who retired prior to 1987, as mentioned under item 4(d) above. To rectify the anomaly, it is necessary to extend the principle of updation to all the pensioners and family pensioners of SBI.***

For State Bank of India Pensioners' Association (Kerala)

<i>(sd)</i>	<i>(Sd)</i>
<i>M.J.Raphael</i>	<i>M.Sankaran Kutty</i>
<i>PRESIDENT</i>	<i>GENERAL SECRETARY</i>

Similar Memorandum has been sent by all our Circle Associations to the MPs in their respective Regions also.

We are glad to inform members that two MPs from Kerala, viz; Shri N.N.Krishnadas and Shri P.C.Thomas have responded to our memorandum. The letters received from them are reproduced below for the information of members:

1. Letter to Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance from
Shri. N.N. Krishnadas, M.P.

Dated : 16th December 2008.

Dear Shri Bansal ji,

I am enclosing herewith a representation from The President and General Secretary, State Bank of India Pensioners' Association (Kerala), "Shiv Sakthi", No. 9, SBI Officers' Colony, Ramanathapuram, Palakkad – 678 001, Kerala State for your kind and sympathetic consideration. The Federation of

Pensioners Associations of State Bank of India is an All India Body of about 90,000 Pensioners and it is the sole organization representing SBI Pensioners. Many issues like (a) 50% pension to all retirees (b) 30% pension to all family pensioners (c) 100% neutralization of dearness relief to all pensioners/family pensioners & (d) review and upgradation of pension to all previous retiree in relation to currency salary revision. Today, the pension of the Top Executive of State Bank who retired prior to 1987 is Rs. 10,621/- whereas the pension of a Clerk who retired in 2006 is Rs. 10772/-. This is the situation today and is very alarming. I also strongly support and recommend their above grievances. The enclosed representation from the Association is also self explanatory.

I shall be highly grateful if you could personally look into this case. An early favourable decision in this regard from your Good office will be highly appreciated.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(N.N.KRISHNADAS)

2. Letter from Shri. P. C. Thomas, M.P. No. PCT/PM/0019/01/09 dt.13th January 2009

പ്രിയ റാഫേൽ,

എനിക്ക് നൽകിയ അപേക്ഷയിൽ എത്രയും വേഗം തീരുമാനമെടുക്കണമെന്നു കാണിച്ച് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിക്ക് കത്തു നൽകിയിട്ടു്.

സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം

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പി. സി. തോമസ്

STRUCTURED MEETING

We are happy to inform our members that a structured meeting with the SBI Mnagement of Kerala Circle took place at the Conference Hall of Thiruvananthapuram LHO on 9th December 2008. All our Office-bearers, viz; S/shri M.J.Raphael, M.Sankaran Kutty, Thomas Oommen, K.T.Prahlad, L.R.Antony D’Couto, M.R.Janardhanan, K.V.Kurian and K.Ganesh attended the meeting. From the Management’s side, Smt.Radha Unni, CGM, Shri Niranjan Parsha, GM, Shri N.Hari, CDO, Shri V. Saseendran, AGM (HR) and Shri N.G.Mohanan, CM (PPG) attended. We presented before the Management a memorandum containing 20 points for discussion, as under:-

1.BANK’S DISPENSARIES:

The functioning of Dispensaries needs to be improved - Because of low compensation, there are hardly any good Doctors – Consulting hours are not convenient to our members – it can be either between 10 a.m. to 12 Noon or 3 p.m.to 5 p.m. – Proper medicines are not available – Majority of our members are chronic diabetic patients but the dispensaries keep medicines required for preliminary treatment only – Tie-ups with Diagnostic Centres for laboratory tests are not in place at all the District Headquarters where

Dispensaries are functioning .As per Corporate Centre guidelines medicines can be stocked for an amount of Rs.25,000/- at any point of time, but this is not being followed.

2. MEDICAL BILLS:

Undue delay is noticed in sanctioning bills submitted under “Mutual Welfare Scheme”(MWS) and “Retired Employees’ Medical Benefit Scheme”(REMBS). We are receiving number of complaints from our members.

3. MEMBERSHIP UNDER “REMBS”:

We have received a number of complaints from retirees who are yet to be admitted as members under the scheme though their applications have been submitted properly and within the prescribed time limit. Hospitalisation bills paid by them are therefore pending submission for reimbursement.

4. HOUSING LOAN INTEREST:

Recently the Bank has reduced the rate of interest on staff housing loan to 7%. This concession has not been extended to Pensioners.

5. PENSIONERS LOAN:

Pensioners are eligible for a maximum loan of Rs.1,00,000/-. On the one hand, the rate

of interest charged is very high, unlike the working staff who enjoy concessional rate, while on the other, the loan is to be availed as demand loan and not overdraft . We request that Pensioners be permitted to exercise the option to avail the facility either as a demand loan or overdraft.

6.UNAILED CASUAL LEAVE:

In the case of an Officer (say Accountant, Cash Officer, etc.) who is ineligible for casual leave, 12 days' casual leave is added to his privilege leave account at the end of the year. Similarly at the time of his retirement also, 12 days extra leave is credited to his account and he is allowed to encash it even if it exceeds the maximum permissible privilege leave. This has not been done in a few cases.

7. IMPROVEMENT IN PENSION:

The Bank's Central Board has approved the proposal for including FPP/PQP while calculating pension but this has not been implemented in our Circle, even after the lapse of almost one year.

8. FAMILY PENSION:

This was revised with effect from 1.5.2005 but the revised pension has not yet been paid to the eligible family members, though Central Board approval was obtained in December 2007.

9. FAMILY PENSION ADVICES:

Though the amount of family pension is mentioned in the letter sent to the retirees after fixing their Pension, the relative calculation sheets are not attached. Also the name of the beneficiary (spouse) who will draw the family pension is also not mentioned. This may please be arranged.

10. TAX DEDUCTION AT SOURCE:

Branches are not advising account-holders about signing Form 15-H. In some branches, tax is being deducted without notice.

11. CREDIT CARD – ANNUAL CHARGES

We get complaints that the Bank is levying annual charges for SBI Credit cards.

12. REVERSE MORTGAGE LOANS:

Some Branches are debiting processing charges whenever a senior citizen pensioner avails of this loan. On our pointing out this issue, some pensioners have received refund also. However, we suggest that suitable guidelines may please be issued to Branches so that such charges are not levied from the Pensioners.

13. WORK AT BRANCHES:

The time taken to open a new account, whether deposit or loan , is unduly long. Branches have totally stopped sending debit/credit advices to account-holders. There is deterioration in the quality of service at many branches. At branches with only two Officers (including the Branch Manager), if one of them goes on leave, authorization problems exist. Even term deposit receipts are issued to the customers only after the second Officer returns from leave. This affects customer service.

14. PENSIONERS' DAY

Corporate Centre had issued instructions to observe 20th of every month as "Pensioners' Day" uniformly in all Circles – Functionaries at LHO/RBOs should meet the pensioners on that day to solve their problems. This is not being done in our Circle.

15. PENSION ADALATS:

Pension Adalats to be held at periodic intervals. Some Circles are conducting it but our Circle is yet to formalize the arrangement.

16. BOOKLETS/CDs

Corporate Centre has brought out Booklets/CDs containing details of retirement benefits , welfare schemes such as MWS, REMBS, list of Holiday Homes of the Bank, etc. for supply to the Pensioners. This may please be arranged.

17. SECOND INNINGS

The first issue of Corporate Centre's quarterly publication called "Second Innings" for the period March-June 08 , though intended for all Pensioners, did not reach everyone. LHO had sent us only 50 copies for distribution. The subsequent issues from July 08, if published, have not reached us.

18. MEDICAL CAMPS:

In some Circles, Bank has made tie-up arrangements with Hospitals for conducting Medical Camps for the benefit of pensioners. In such camps, consultations, various lab tests etc. costing Rs.4,000/- and more otherwise, are free. The Mumbai Circle's medical camp is for 2 months from 1.11.08 to 31.12.08. Our CGM may consider conducting a similar camp in Kerala.

19. MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

Arrangements may please be put in place so that the Pensioners' Association is able to meet the Bank's officials at periodic intervals to sort

out local problems.

20. OFFICE SPACE

Our Association is presently functioning from the private residence of the General Secretary stationed in Palakkad. We request CGM to consider providing us a small room for our use in the premises of Palakkad Main Branch, which is owned by the Bank.

The discussions were held in a very cordial atmosphere and the Management promised all help from their side on matters which require specific attention at the Circle Level. On other matters requiring sanction from the Corporate Centre, the Management gave us an assurance for taking up at the Apex level.

This is the first meeting of its kind after the formation of our Association in 2001 and therefore assumes lot of importance. The Bank is slowly realizing the need to take notice of the Pensioners' strength. They have started inviting Pensioners also to attend customer meets. A number of pensioners attended the inauguration of the first "**Bank of ATMs**" in Palakkad Main Branch recently.

On items 2,3,4,6 and 12 listed above, the Management expressed their desire to settle the issues on merit provided we take up individual cases. With regard to items 7 & 8, the software problems have been sorted out fully and the payment of revised pension/family pension to the eligible members is being made in convenient lots and will be completed within 3 months.

Hereafter, similar "Structured Meetings" will take place at reasonable intervals. Our members are therefore requested to send their complaints on any issue affecting them with specific details to the General Secretary, so that he can include the items in the next round of discussions with the Management.

Incidentally, Smt.Radha Unni, Chief General Manager, who took the initiative for conducting the first structured meeting with our Association retired from the Bank's service on superannuation on 31.12.2008. She is now a member of our Association. We wish her a happy and peaceful retired life.

NEW MEMBERS

The following pensioners of the Bank have joined our Organisation as Life Members/Associate Life Members. We extend a hearty welcome and wish them all a very happy and peaceful retired life:-

LM 1419*	Shri K.A.Chenthamarakshan	Kozhikode
AFM1420	Smt.K.V. Beena	Kozhikode
LM 1421*	Shri Jayakarunakaran	Kozhikode

AFM1422	Smt.K.Bhamini	Kozhikode
LM 1423*	Shri V.P.Kunhiraman Nair	Kozhikode
AFM1424	Smt.T.K.Sumathy	Kozhikode
LM 1425*	Shri D.Udayabhanoo	Ernakulam
AFM1426	Smt.C.R.Savithry	Ernakulam
LM 1427*	Shri A. Sivadas Nair	Trichur
AFM1428	Smt.S.Rajammal	Ernakulam
LM 1429*	Shri N.Ganapathykrishnan	Kollam
AFM1430	Smt.R.S.Santha	Kollam
AFM1431	Smt.M.Muthulakshmy	Alappuzha
LM 1432*	Shri K.Ramakrishnan	Trichur
AFM1433	Smt.Shubhalakshmi Ramakrishnan	Trichur
LM 1434*	Shri P.Suresh Kumar	Trichur
LM 1435*	Shri K.Sivasankaran	Trichur
AFM1436	Smt.Radha Sankar	Trichur
LM 1437*	Smt.Radha Unni	Thiruvananthapuram
AFM1438	Shri M.Unni	Thiruvananthapuram
LM 1439*	Shri M.C.Rajendran Unni	Palakkad
AFM1440	Smt.Usha M.Nair	Palakkad
LM 1441	Shri Chacko Sebastian	Alappuzha
LM 1442	Shri M.P.Sankaran Moosad	Ernakulam
AFM1443	Smt.Latha Moosad	Ernakulam
LM 1444*	Paul Joseph	Ernakulam
AFM 1445	Smt. Cicy Paul	Ernakulam

* Bulletin subscribers

DONATIONS:

Voluntary donations have been received from the following members. We convey our grateful thanks to all of them.

1. Shri K.P. PadmakumarErnakulam Rs.2,500-00
2. Shri K.K.PrasannanKannur Rs. 500-00
3. Shri V.P. Vijayan Kozhikode Rs. 100-00
4. Shri A.K.Menon Ernakulam Rs. 100-00
5. Shri. M. J. Raphael, Trichur Rs. 200.00

OBITUARY

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we regret to report the death of the following members of our Association. May their souls rest in peace! We convey our heartfelt condolences to all members of the bereaved families:

1. Shri M.M.Thankappan, Ernakulam
2. Shri R.Krishna Pillai, Kochi
3. Shri S.Madhava Bhat, Kochi on 29.02.2008
4. Shri M.A.Divakaran, Ernakulam on 28.12.2008
5. Shri C.Sukumaran Nair, Trivandrum
6. Shri Umakanth K Paranjpe, Ekm. on 05.06.08

We deeply mourn the sad and sudden demise of Shri V.Ganesan in Chennai. Shri Ganesan was the General Secretary of State Banks' Staff Union (Chennai Circle) for a long period. We convey our heartfelt condolences to all the members of his family. May his soul rest in peace!

SBI ADJUDGED AS THE BEST BANK

Our Bank has been adjudged as the Best Bank of the year 2008 by the London-based 'The Banker' magazine published by the Financial Times Group. The award is decided on the basis of intensive research & analysis of financials and performance of prominent Banks. Our congratulations to the Bank on this achievement.

LETTERS REGARDING SANCTION OF PENSION ON RETIREMENT

We have been receiving a number of complaints from our members regarding non-receipt of proper letters from the Bank mentioning the name of the spouse who is eligible to draw family pension on the death of the pensioner. On random verification, we find that, of late, our Trivandrum LHO is sending proper advices to retirees; however, there are quite a number of earlier cases where it was not done. We have written to the Bank to verify the position and to issue letters addressed to the retirees mentioning therein the amount of pension/family pension sanctioned to them indicating clearly the name of the spouse who will be eligible to draw family pension upon the death of the pensioner member. An extract from the Corporate Office letter No.CDO:PM:16:CIR:29 dated 4.9.2006 addressed to all LHOs is given below for the information of members:

*"It has been decided that, henceforth, sanctioned copies of calculation sheets of Provident Fund and Gratuity should be provided to the retiring employee at the time of making payment of his terminal benefits **and a copy of the sanctioned pension calculation sheet should be sent to him along with the letter conveying the sanction of pension.** The retiring employees may be advised to take up the matter with DGM/CDO of the Circle/General Manager, CAO, Kolkata, as the case may be, if the calculation sheets are not provided to them".*

Our members are requested to kindly verify the letters in their possession and, if necessary, take up the matter with the Bank endorsing a copy thereof to us for necessary follow-up action.

GRATUITY – REQUEST FOR ENHANCEMENT OF CEILING TO RS.10 LAKHS ON PAR WITH CENTRAL GOVT. EMPLOYEES

Members are aware that gratuity is paid to the retiring employees of SBI in terms of the provisions of the Central Gratuity Act with a ceiling of Rs.3.5 lakhs at present. The Sixth Pay Commission recommended enhancement in the ceiling of gratuity from Rs.3.5 lakhs to Rs.10 lakhs

with effect from 1.1.2006 which has been accepted by the Central Government. Though the Gratuity Act needs to be amended accordingly, the Central Government has decided to extend the benefit to its employees by way of an administrative order, pending suitable amendment to the Act. Our Federation has therefore requested SBI to pass on the benefit of enhancement to our retirees also, without waiting for the amendment to the Act, as is being done by the Government. The Federation of the State Bank of India Officers' Associations has also written to the Union Labour Minister for increasing the gratuity to Rs.10 lakhs. Members will be advised of the developments.

We reproduce a recent letter CDO/PM/16/SPI/1045 dated 7th January, 2009 from the Corporate Centre, Mumbai, addressed to the President, Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations on revision of Pension, the contents of which are self explanatory.

Dear Sir,

PENSION SCHEME IN SBI

The Ministry of Finance under cover of their letter No.F.21/1/2005-IR dated 4.12.2008 has forwarded your representation dated 03.10.2008 addressed to Shri. K. V. Eapen, Joint Secretary, Department of Banking Services, Government of India for appropriate action.

2. In this connection, we advise that pension in SBI is paid to eligible retired employees as per instructions contained in SBI Employees' Pension Fund Rules. The Rules are framed in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 50 of the SBI Act. (23 of 1955) to the Central Board of the Bank, after consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and with the previous sanction of the Central Govt. Accordingly, the issue regarding revision in pension has been taken up with the GOI. We are awaiting their advices.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

For DMD & Corporate Dev. Officer

COURT CASES

After 7 years of filing the writ petition No.1931/2002 in the **Delhi High Court**, the case was finally taken up for arguments on 15.1.2009 and on 22.1.2009 in the court of Justice Kailash Gambir. The arguments are inconclusive and the case is now posted to 12.2.2009, for further hearing.

Regarding the judgement passed by the **Madras High Court** on 16.10.2008 directing the Government of India to consider and approve the

Bank's proposal dated 19.4.2006 on revision of pension on the basis of 7th Bipartite Pay Scales, the Government is yet to take a decision. It is rumoured that the MOF has referred the matter to the Law Ministry and on receipt of their opinion, GOI may file a review petition. Meanwhile, the original petitioners in Chennai have filed a review petition seeking relief @50% from the date of their retirements and not from 1.5.2005, as recommended by the Bank.

As regards the writ petition filed in the **High Court of Kerala**, there are no developments to report.

ISSUES WHICH CAN BE RESOLVED AT THE BANK'LEVEL

REVISED FAMILY PENSION:

After a gap of more than 2 decades the Bank's Central Board, at its meeting held on 29.12.2007, approved revision of family pension as per industry level effective from 1.5.2005. Though one year has elapsed since then, the revision has not been implemented and arrears not paid to the eligible members.

FPP/PQA:

For those who retired after 1.11.2002, pension has been improved by te inclusion of FPP and PQA, as per Corporate Centre letter dated 3.5.2008 but the payment of revised pension effective from 1.5.2005 has not yet been made, though a period of 8 months have passed.

FORFEITURE ACCOUNT

IBI employees/pensioners were paid a lumpsum of Rs. 5000 towards medical expenses for 2006-2007 as per Corporate Centre letter dated 3.8.2006. Similar benefit was not made available to them for the period 2007-2008 and also 2008-09, though the original instructions were to disburse the amount until the balance in the account gets exhausted.

IMPROVEMENT IN REMBS

The inclusion of two additional illnesses and domicillary tereatment of 10% p.a. in the Modified Scheme for TEG-VI and above should be extended to all the existing members of Scheme II.

MEDICAL EXPENSES & FUNTIONING OF DISPENSARIES

Undue delay is experienced in the sanction of medical bills under REMBS for the reason that allotment of required funds are not

being received from Corporate Centre in time. Lot of bills are getting accumulated causing hardship to Pensioners.

In March 2008 Corporate Centre had written to LHOs for keeping adequate stocks of medicines (say 2/3 months requirements) to avoid repeat visits of pensioners to the Dispensaries but the situation has not improved much.

REVERSE MORTGAGE SCHEME

When our members avail loans under the scheme, processing charges are recovered from them on the plea that the scheme does not specifically state that Bank's pensioners are exempted. As the number of such loans are increasing, it is necessary that Corporate Centre issues instructions to LHOs exempting Bank's Pensioners from payment of processing charges.

PENSIONERS' LOAN – Rs.1,00,000 (Max)

The rate of interest charged is high. Only demand loan is permitted. Bank's pensioners should be given an option to avail it either as an overdraft or demand loan, as they desire.

HOUSING LOAN INTEREST

Bank has recently reduced the rate of interest on housing loans to staff. Similar concession should be permitted to Pensioners also in respect of loans availed by them while in service.

CORE BANKING SOLUTIONS

Under CBS, all Pensioners of Central, State, LIC, Railways and SBI etc. have been clubbed into one Group resulting in lot of problems for SBI Pensioners, viz;

- (a) their accounts are not treated on par with staff
- (b) additional 1% interest on deposits is not given & Exchange charged on remittances
- (d) Commission charged on issue of cheque book/ATM debit card
- (e) Concessionary facilities are not extended on loans
- (f) Tax is deducted at source despite giving Form 15-H

NAME OF SPOUSE NOT MENTIONED IN PENSION ADVICE

In the Bank's letter to the retiree advising sanction of pension/family pension, name of the spouse who is eligible for family pension is not mentioned in a number of earlier cases. To avoid any future difficulty, Bank should review each case and send letters to the pensioner (wherever there

are omissions) specifically mentioning the name of the spouse.

NOTE : OUR MEMBERS ARE AGITATED AND MANY DISTRESS CALLS ARE COMING. TO AVOID LOSING FURTHER CREDIBILITY IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE SHED OUR MISPLACED OPTIMISM & ACT SWIFTLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

DISTRICT NEWS

Kannur: A General Body meeting of the association, Kannur Centre was held on 05.01.2009 at 11 a.m. at IMA Hall, Kannur. The meeting was presided by Shri. P.P. Purushothaman, President. The meeting placed on record their heart felt condolences to the bereaved families of associated members Smt. Shyamala Gopinath W/o. Shri. J. Gopinath and Smt. Subhadra Pvanan who expired on 09.10.2008 and 14.10.2008 respectively. Shri. K.T. Prahlad, Vice President, Kerala State Association explained the latest association matters including the present position of various court cases.

Shri K.M. Venugopalan, former Secretary, Kannur Centre who turned 75 years of age in December 2008 was honoured in the meeting and a gift was presented by Senior member Shri. Ismail Shah. Shri P. Narayanan, Secretary, presented the report of the last meeting and requested all members to subscribe to our bulletin, if not already done. The meeting concluded at 1.00 PM and was followed by lunch

എറണാകുളം: എറണാകുളം സെന്ററിന്റെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ അദ്ധ്യാപക ഭവനിൽ വെച്ച് 2008 ഡിസംബർ 6, ശനിയാഴ്ച എസ്. ബി. ഐ. പെൻഷനേഴ്സ് അസോസിയേഷന്റെ നാലാമത്തെ കുടുംബസംഗമം നടന്നു. ശ്രീ. ആർ. വി. ശേണായ് പ്രാർത്ഥനാ ഗാനം ആലപിച്ചു. സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ പ്രസിഡന്റ് ശ്രീ. കെ. സി. സോമനാഥൻ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷം വഹിച്ചു. സെക്രട്ടറി ശ്രീ. മുരളീധര വാദ്ധ്യാർ സ്വാഗതം ആശംസിച്ചു. സംസ്ഥാന പ്രസിഡന്റ് ശ്രീ. എം. ജെ. റാഫേൽ, ജനറൽ സെക്രട്ടറി ശ്രീ. എം. ശങ്കരൻകുട്ടി, മുൻ ജനറൽ സെക്രട്ടറി ശ്രീ. ഏ. കെ. മേനോൻ, മുൻ സെക്രട്ടറി ശ്രീ. ടി. ആർ. വിജയൻ എന്നിവർ സമ്മേളനത്തിനു ആശംസകൾ നേർന്നു. തുടർന്നു തംബോല മുതലായ കളികൾ, കുട്ടികളുടെ ഗാനാലാപം തുടങ്ങിയ കലാപരിപാടികളും ഉായിരുന്നു. ഉച്ച ഭക്ഷണത്തിനു ശേഷം ഡോ. സി. ബി.. ബിനു (Consultant Psychiatrist & Psychoterapist), .ഡോ രാജൻ മത്തായി (Clinical Psychologist) എന്നിവരുമായി അംഗങ്ങൾ സംവേദിച്ചു. വൈകുന്നേരം നാലുമണിക്കു യോഗം പിരിഞ്ഞു.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF FEDERATION ON 19.1.2009

Our Federation had its Annual General Body meeting at SLBC, Bangalore on 19.1.09. Representing Kerala Circle, Sarvashri M.J.Raphael, M.Sankaran Kutty, K.T.Prahlad, M.R.Janardhanan, and K.V. Kurian attended as Delegates and Shri K. Ganesh participated as an observer. A gist of the report presented by us at the meeting is reproduced below for the information of members:-

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS OF OUR FEDERATION

At the Annual General Body meeting of our Federation held on 19.1.2009 at Bangalore, the following office-bearers have been elected for a period of three years (2009-2012). While the registered office of the Federation will continue to be in Delhi, the Administrative Office has been shifted to Chennai, (Address: 2nd floor (SBI Teynampet Branch complex), No.594 Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai 600 018. Telephone No.044-24343617, e-mail ID: pencare2003@yahoo.com).

- 1. President : Shri B.K.Ghose, Kolkatta (Ph.033-24408089)
- 2. Vice-President (North): Shri V.K.Mehrotra, Lucknow (Ph.0522-220830)
- 3. Vice-President (West): Shri S.C.Rindani, Ahmedabad (Ph.079-26927826)
- 4. Vice-President (East) : Shri T.R.Rao, Bhubaneswar (Ph.0674-2551695)
- 5. Vice-President (South): Shri A.Damodaram, Hyderabad (Ph.040-27632542)
- 6. General Secretary : Shri P.P.S. Murth, Chennai (Ph.044-24864184)
- 7. Secretary : Shri R.N.Banerjee, Kolkatta (Ph.033-23371240)
- 8. Treasurer : Shri.G.Soundararajan, Chennai (Ph.044-23632807)

Dearness Relief for Feb. 2009 to Jul 2009
(Ref : Corp. Centre e-Circ No.CDO/P&HRD-PM/98/2008-09 Dt 12-02-2009)

Table-1 RATES OF DEARNESS RELIEF PAYABLE TO PENSIONERS

WHO HAVE RETIRED (A) PRIOR TO 1-11-1987 and (B) BETWEEN 1-11-1987 & 31-10-1993

S.No.	Basic Pension + FDR (As Applicable)	Dearness Relief (Average Index - 3370) (Slabs - 692)
1.	Upto Rs.1250.00	463.64 % of aggregate of Basic Pension & F.D.R.
2.	From Rs.1251.00 to Rs. 2000.00	Rs.5,795.50 + 380.60 % of aggregate of Basic Pension & F.D.R. in excess of Rs.1,250=00
3.	From Rs.2001.00 to Rs. 2130.00	Rs.8,650.00 + 228.36 % of aggregate of Basic Pension & F D R in excess of Rs.2,000=00
4.	Above Rs.2130.00	Rs.8,946.87 + 117.64 % of aggregate of Basic Pension & F.D.R. in excess of Rs.2,130=00

Table-2 FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RETIRED ON OR AFTER 1-11-1993 & UPTO 31-10-02

S No.	Basic Pension + FDR (As applicable)	Dearness Relief (Average Index - 3370) (Slabs - 555)
1.	Upto Rs.2400.00	194.25 % of Basic Pension
2.	From Rs.2401.00 to Rs. 3850.00	Rs.4,662.00 + 160.95 % of Basic Pension in excess of Rs.2,400/-
3.	From Rs.3851.00 to Rs. 4100.00	Rs.6,995.77 + 94.35 % of Basic Pension in excess of Rs.3,850/-
4.	Above Rs.4100.00	Rs.7,231.64 + 49.95 % of Basic Pension In excess of Rs.4,100/-

**Table – 3 Dearness Relief payable to Pensioners who have retired on or after 1-11-2002
(Average Index -CPI - for quarter ended June 2008 :- 3370 ; and No. of Slabs - 270)**

Rate of dearness Relief on Pension : 48.60 % of basic pension

(ignore decimals from 3rd place onwards)

Dearness Relief payable to - FAMILY PENSIONERS

(i) Dearness Relief for Family Pensioners who died or retired (a) before 1-11-1993 .(b) on or after 1-11-1993 but before 1-4-1998 and (c) on or after 1-11-2002 will be paid as per the tables (1,2 & 3) given above for the Pensioners (ii) The Dearness Relief of Family Pensioners who died/retired on or after 1-4-1998 but before 01-11-2002 will be as per the following table

S.No.	Basic Family Pension	Dearness Relief (Average Index - 3370) (Slabs - 421)
i)	Upto Rs. 3,550/-	101.04 %
ii)	Rs.3,551/- to Rs. 5,650/-	Rs.3,586.92 + 84.20 % of Basic Family Pension in excess of Rs.3,550/-
iii)	Rs.5,651/- to Rs. 6,010/-	Rs.5,355.12 + 50.52 % of Basic Family Pension in excess of Rs.5,650/-
iv)	Above Rs.6,010/-	Rs.5,536.99 + 25.26 % of Basic Family Pension in excess of Rs.6,010/-

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