
Payment of Dearness Relief with 100% Neutralization to Pre 01-11-2002 Pensioners

Our Federation has taken up the above matter with our Bank. In our last Month's issue, we have published a copy of a letter received from our Bank advising that IBA has asked our Bank to await the judgment in the Writ Appeals filed by Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda & Indian Overseas Bank. (This letter has been reproduced in 'Samvad' for April 2013 on page 15) In response to this communication from our Bank, our Federation has again taken up the above issue with our Bank. A copy of this communication dated 23-04-2013 is published for the information of our members.

"Sub : Payment of Dearness Relief with 100% Neutralization to Pre 01-11-2002 Pensioners

We refer to your letter of 8th March 2013 on the above subject and feel much aggrieved over the developments communicated therein.

2. In this connection, we enclose, for your ready reference, a copy of the letter dated PD/GSN/SBI/G2/970 dated 8th September 2000 addressed to the Deputy General Manager (IR) of your office by I.B.A. clarifying that the Bipartite Settlements entered into by IBA with U.F.B.U. on Pension issues do not apply to the Pension Scheme of State Bank of India, as our Pension Scheme is not covered by the Bank (Employees') Pension Regulations 1995. In the circumstances the need for SBI referring the above issue to I.B.A. should not have arisen and an independent decision could have been taken by SBI. The fact that the Reserve Bank of India is making payment of Dearness Relief to all its pre 01-11-2002 pensioners with effect from 01-02-2005 should have been considered in support of such action.

3. In case, it is incumbent on the part of SBI

to adhere to the provisions of bipartite settlements on pension matters concluded between I.B.A. and U.F.B.U. our Bank should have revised pension on seventh bipartite pay scales with effect from 01-05-2005, as carried out by the other member Banks of IBA. As SBI has not yet revised its pension on Seventh Bipartite Pay Scales, there is no justification for SBI to follow selectively in implementing only such provisions of the bipartite settlements, which are detrimental to the SBI Pensioners.

4. If however any instructions/guidelines, stipulating that the provisions of the bipartite settlements on pension matters including the provisions on payment of dearness relief are applicable to our Pension Scheme, have been communicated to SBI either by I.B.A. or by the Government, we request you to advise us the details thereof, compelling SBI to seek a reference to the Indian Banks' Association on the captioned issue, forwarding to us the copies of such correspondence for our information.

5. The Supreme Court of India has categorically stated, in its verdict dated 17-01-2013 that there should not be any discrimination in the payment of dearness relief among the pensioners. We therefore consider that there is no justification for continuing this discrimination in the payment of dearness relief to all the pre 01-11-2002 pensioners any longer and look forward to your taking immediate steps for removing this discrimination without further delay."

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,
General Secretary

(Courtesy - May 2013 Issue of "Elders Voice", a monthly magazine of Chennai Circle Pen Assn)

