



All branches and offices of
State Bank of India

Madam/ Dear Sir,

SBI RETIRED EMPLOYEES' MEDICAL BENEFIT SCHEME (REMBS)

RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHEME

Please refer to our e-circular No. CDO/P&HRDPPFG/34/2018-19 dated August 06, 2018 regarding re-introduction of the Retired Employees Medical Benefit scheme. Through the e-circular, it was *inter alia* advised that membership to the re-introduced scheme would be permitted to all employees of SBI who have retired on or after 01.01.2016, as well as employees of erstwhile Associate Banks, who have retired after 31.03.2017, if otherwise eligible for membership under REMBS rules. It was also advised that eligibility for membership under the scheme would continue to be guided by the extant instructions under rules of the Retired Employee Medical Benefit Trust contained in e-circular no. CDO/P&HRD-PM/46/2006 – 07 dated 16.11.2006.

2. We are now receiving queries from Circles regarding the eligibility for certain category of employees / retirees who are not covered under the present rules of the REMBS Trust e.g. employees retiring on voluntary retirement, e-AB employees retiring under CPF option and not in receipt of pension, surviving spouses of employees who die in service or die after retirement but within the stipulated timeline for joining the scheme etc. We have also been receiving requests for permitting membership to pensioners of State Bank of India who retired during the period October 2015 to December 2015.

3. The issues have been examined and it has been decided as under:

- (i) **Employees on Voluntary Retirement** – In terms of the 'Scheme for Extending Miscellaneous Benefits/Facilities to Employees/Officers on Voluntary Retirement', membership of SBI-REMBS would be available to employees retiring on voluntary retirement after 58 years of age and 30 years of service (both conditions to be fulfilled together).

[Refer e-circular no. CDO/P&HRD-PM/58/2015-16 dated October 07, 2015 and CDO/P&HRD-PM/12/2017-18 dated May 05, 2017]

Accordingly, all employees retiring on voluntary retirement on completion of 58 years of age and 30 years of service (both conditions to be fulfilled together)

would be permitted to join REMBS. The timeline for this one time option would be similar to the timeline for other retirees. ***However, the scheme would not be available to e-AB employees who retired under VRS-2017.***

- (ii) **SBI Employees retired during Oct'15 to Dec'15** – SBI employees who retired during Oct'15 to Dec'15 and had not joined REMBS but had become members of Policy 'B', would be extended a one-time option to join the re-introduced REMBS. The timeline for joining the scheme for such retirees would be similar to the timeline for other past retirees i.e. upto 15.01.2019.

However, the scheme would not be available to retirees of that period i.e. Oct'15 to Dec'15, who had chosen not to join Policy 'B'. Accordingly, before accepting application form for membership of the scheme, branches should ensure that the concerned employee was eligible for joining REMBS but had joined Policy 'B' instead.

- (iii) **Retirees of e-ABs under Provident Fund Option** – The scheme i.e. re-introduced REMBS would be available to e-AB employees who have retired / retire under Contributory Provident Fund Option and are not in receipt of pension, subject to fulfillment of other eligibility criteria. The timeline for joining for such retirees would be within three months from the date of retirement. In case of past retirees under this category i.e. retired on or after 01.04.2017, the timeline for joining would be upto 10.12.2018.

- (iv) **Surviving Spouses of Eligible Retirees** – Surviving spouses of employees, who retired on or after 01.01.2016 (on or after 01.04.2017 in case of e-AB employees) and have passed away during this period, would be extended one-time option to join the scheme. The choice of plan in such cases may be permitted as per grade wise eligibility of the deceased retiree or one step lower than his / her grade wise eligibility. The timeline for this one time option would be similar to the timeline for other retirees.

Similarly, in case of future retiree, who is otherwise eligible, but passed away within the permissible timeline for joining the scheme i.e. within three months of receipt of first pension, the surviving spouse would be permitted to join the scheme. The choice of plan in such cases also may be permitted as per grade wise eligibility of the deceased retiree or one step lower than his / her grade wise eligibility. The surviving spouses willing to join the scheme would be required to join within the permissible timeline for the retiree, had he / she remained alive.

- (v) **Surviving Spouses of Employees who Die in Service** – In terms of the extant instructions, membership of REMBS is available to the spouses of only those employees who die while in service after putting in at least 20 years of pensionable service and after attaining the age of 50 years and above (both the conditions to be satisfied). The membership was restricted up to Plan-‘E’ of the erstwhile scheme i.e. lifetime medical benefit of Rs. 7.00 Lakh only. However, in terms of the ECCB approval, the medical benefit will accrue to the spouses on and from the notional date of superannuation of the deceased employee at the age of sixty years, had he / she remained alive or the date of taking membership within a period of 3 months thereafter, whichever is later.

It has now been decided to remove the condition related to availability of the benefit only after notional date of superannuation and allow membership of the trust to spouses of those employees who die while in service after putting in at least 20 years of pensionable service and after attaining the age of 50 years and above (both the conditions to be satisfied). The choice of plan in such cases may be permitted as per grade wise eligibility of the deceased retiree or one step lower than the grade wise eligibility. The timeline for joining the scheme would be within three months from date of receipt of first family pension in case of SBI retirees and within three months of date of death in case of e-AB retirees under CPF option.

4. Please bring the contents of the circular to the knowledge of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

(Prashant Kumar)

**Deputy Managing Director (HR) &
Corporate Development Office**