

CIRCULAR

10th February 2015

TO ALL UNITS OF ASSOCIATION
AND FEDERATION

Dear Friends,

**Bank Employees on Strike from 25th to 28th February 2015 –
Reserve Bank employees on Solidarity Strike on 25th February 2015**

At the call of United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) Bank employees and officers all over the country were poised to go on strike on 7th January 2015 and 4 days' continuous strike from 21st January to 24th January 2015 and indefinite strike from 16th March 2015 onwards. In solidarity AIRBEA and AIRBWF called upon RBI staff to observe Strike on 7th January 2015. Our units were in full preparation to make the solidarity strike a total success.

However, on 5th January 2015, IBA talked with UFBU, increased the offer to 12.5%, assured continuity of talks and "reasonable" increase on review, in context of which UFBU kept the programme on hold. They further met on 3rd February 2015. But upsetting all expectations of UFBU, IBA offered a paltry increase of just 0.5% and said 'no further'. UFBU rejected the offer, rightly.

While UFBU have shown enormous flexibility, it is not being reciprocated by IBA unfortunately, which is evident. The Government is totally silent and indifferent when the banking industry is clearly in a critical situation.

UFBU have been constrained to revive its programme, called upon bank employees to observe four days' continuous strike from 25th to 28th February 2015, to be followed by indefinite strike from 16th March 2015.

UFBU, through its Convener, have requested (reproduced overleaf) our support to "strengthen them and ensure expeditious settlement".

In this background AIRBEA and AIRBWF jointly decide to express solidarity with a million bank employees and officers, who are fighting heroically on just demand of a reasonable wage revision, by observing a day's strike on the 25th February 2015.

AIRBEA and AIRBWF deplore bankers' rigidity and Government's silence which plunges the sensitive banking sector in prolonged turmoil, creating huge inconvenience to bank customers and enormous loss to national economy.

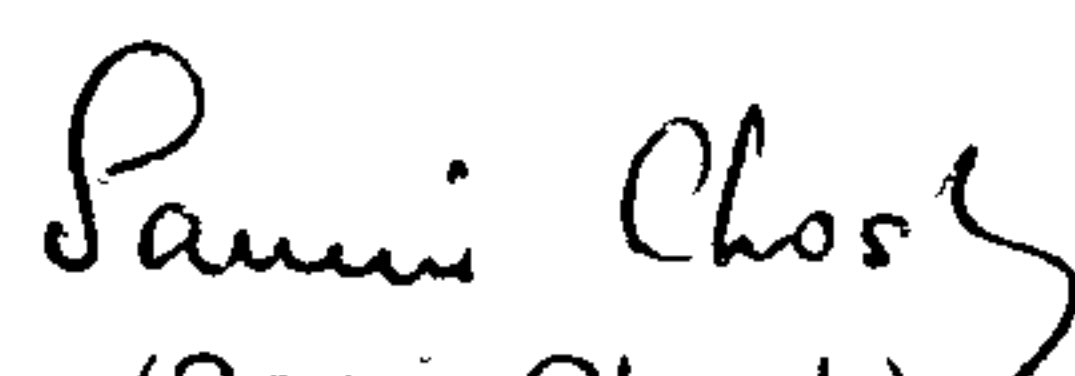
We demand earliest reasonable settlement. All our units are advised to co-ordinate preparatory programmes with State Units of UFBU and mobilize en masse.

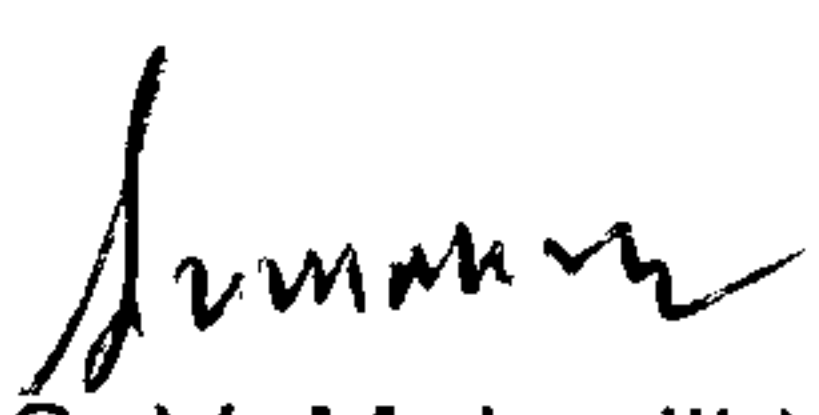
Also, Lunch-time Joint Gate Demonstration be held everywhere on 27th February 2015, where besides our leaders, leaders of UFBU may be invited to address.

Please report compliance to the headquarters of AIRBEA and AIRBWF and move in total unison.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,


(Samir Ghosh)
General Secretary
AIRBEA


(S. V. Mahadik)
General Secretary
AIRBWF

b. t. o.

Text of letter dated 6th February 2015 from Com. M. V. Murali, Convener, UFBU to General Secretaries, AIRBEA and AIRBWF

"We thank you very much for the solidarity and support extended including calling for a day's strike supportive of our strike action on 7th January 2015 to our genuine efforts to secure decent wage revision to employees of Public Sector Banks.

We were assured by IBA that they would take up with Government and also discuss in the scheduled Managing Committee Meeting to be held on 31st January 2015 for substantial improvement from its offer of 12.5%. IBA also assured to come with substantial and satisfactory improvement from 12.5% in the negotiations to be held on 3rd February 2015 with an intention to reach finality. In view of this, UFBU decided to put on hold its 4 days' strike action from 21st January 2015 to 24th January 2015.

However, in the meeting held on 3rd February 2015, IBA has backtracked from its assurance and adopted negative approach once again by offering a paltry increase of 0.5% over the earlier offer of 12.5% in pay slip components. Hence, UFBU has been pushed to the path of agitation again and gave a call for revival of strike actions as detailed in the Circular No. UFBU/2015/45 dated 4th February 2015 enclosed to this letter.

We seek your continued co-ordination and support to all our agitational programmes, which would strengthen us and ensure expeditious settlement of a decent wage revision to Bank employees.

With regards,"