

UNITED FORUM OF RBI OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Shri Shaktikanta Das,
Hon'ble Governor,
Reserve Bank of India,
Central Office,
Mumbai.

3rd July 2020

Respected Sir,

Pension option to RBI CPF optees

On 26th June 2020, the Department of Financial Services, MOF, conveyed to you their approval of one last option to RBI CPF subscribers, about 2600 in number, who were in RBI service as on 1st November 1990 and continued as such on 15th November 2000 switching over from CPF to pension scheme within such period to be specified by the Bank.

It may please be recalled that RBI wrote to the MOF as far back as 2011 seeking their permission to offer one option to these people with cogent reasoning. The Govt. declined. RBI pursued the matter periodically but in vain. The Parliamentary Committee on Sub-ordinate legislation under the chairmanship of Sri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal Gandhi, MP, strongly recommended for one last option, not once but twice, but the Govt. rejected. Even as late as 10th December 2019, in a meeting with the representatives of the Parliamentary Committee, in presence of RBI officials, the then Finance Secretary strongly reiterated government's view of 'no option'.

Sir, after you took over as the Governor of RBI in a difficult situation on 12th December 2018, the issues of pension updation and a fresh option to the remaining personnel, were taken up with you. You were clearly sympathetic. There was constraint of time as the General Election was fast approaching and Election Commission notification was in the offing. To compound the situation the then FM late Sri Arun Jaitleyji was abroad for treatment of a deadly disease. Despite all these hurdles, you, quietly and unobtrusively, got the updation of pension for about 25,000 RBI pensioners in the first week of March 2019- the first such thing outside the domain of the Government. We were overwhelmed. We thanked you from the core of our heart.

However, our joy was still circumscribed as the CPF subscribers were left out. Once again they were denied. In agony we looked towards you. We wrote you several letters, you will please recall. In your interactions with our several delegations in some offices, you assured benignly. Meanwhile the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country. The economic situation was also worrying you. RBI was being called upon to take appropriate measures. In this situation, we, as responsible trade unions, did not want to bother you. We were waiting for a suitable opportunity. However, once again, in a miraculous step, you have got us the pension option, which has long eluded us.

Thank you, Sir. Once again we are overwhelmed. This will save some old retirees, CPF subscribers, and their families from devastation. Theirs as well as our joy knows no bound.


We await Bank's office order in this respect. Bank have to decide on simple interest on refund of Bank's contribution to CPF. The scheme comes into effect from 1st November 1990 – three decades from now- a very long tenure. Interest scenario is fast declining now. Even with a minimal interest rate, the long period will still make the outgo quite heavy, you will please appreciate. We request the Bank to decide on a cap on total interest load, to make the refund bearable, and enable all to join the benevolent welfare scheme, as this is stated to be the "final opportunity".

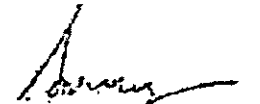
Sir, after the situation eases a bit and you are relieved a little, we will request you to look, as per your convenience, to improvement in family pension as a corollary to updated pension, some relief to ex-gratia payment to pre 1986 retirees, mostly very few surviving spouses, and a few staff who mistakenly 'resigned' from Bank's service from 1986 since when RBI pension scheme became effective. For post 2012 recruits, the NPS contributors, looking to the ups and downs of the turbulent stock market with consequent uneasiness and eventual loss, we can work out some protection for them, at a minimal or no extra cost to the Bank.


Thank you, Sir. Stay safe, stay well and healthy.

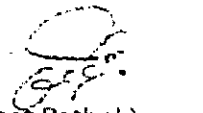
With best of regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Samir Ghosh)
General Secretary
All India Reserve Bank
Employees Association


(S. V. Mahadik)
General Secretary
All India Reserve Bank
Workers Federation


(Gavin Coetho)
General Secretary
All India Reserve Bank
Officers Association


(Jeet Pathak)
General Secretary
Reserve Bank of India
Officers Association