

Bank officers serve notice for strike on Dec 11

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Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 29:

The All-India Bank Officers' Confederation (Aiboc) has given a call for a nationwide strike on December 11 in support of its various demands.

The notice of strike has been served by mail to all concerned, says Harvinder Singh, general secretary, Aiboc.

The one-day strike will be preceded by other types of protests including wearing of black badges while on duty on December 2; demonstrations at the headquarters of all banks on December 4; and mass demonstrations at major centres and state capitals on December 7.

PENDING ISSUES

Singh recalled that the Joint Note for the 10th bipartite settlement was signed on May 25 but many issues were left pending on the assurance of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) that action would be taken without delay.

Among these are issues pertaining to retirees covered in the record cote; disciplinary matters; calling officers for work on Sundays/holidays; and anomaly in stagnation increments.

Singh said even settled issues of medical aid and reimbursement of medical expenses for retired employees through insurance, have not been implemented.

Despite the lapse of six months and our several reminders, no steps have been taken by the IBA to resolve them.

There is no move either to start negotiations or restart discussions, Singh said. The IBA has not extended even the normal courtesy of acknowledging Aiboc communications.

NAYAK COMMITTEE

These apart, the Centre is announcing and implementing policies based on the recommendations of PJ Nayak Committee to dilute stake in public sector banks; privatise them through denial of capital; put up a Banking Bureau Board; deliberately delay appointment of officer-directors on boards; pick private entrepreneurs as MDs and chairmen in Banks; and permit FDI.

But it has not cared to move decidedly to recover debts from wilful defaulters even as more leeway is being provided to them via asset reconstruction companies and strategic debt restructuring.

Singh also alluded to non-implementation of the understanding between Dhanlaxmi Bank Officers' Organisation and the management reached in the presence of the Kerala Home Minister and trade union leaders.

In view of these, the executive committee of Aiboc felt that any delay in deciding on direct action will harm the interests of public sector banks and the job security of employees.

Also, there is a need for a re-look at the 10th bipartite settlement in view of the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission and salary settlement of LIC employees.

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