



# **NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF BANK EMPLOYEES**

**(Registered Under Trade Union Act, 1926–Registration No.B-2334)**

**Registered Office & Head Quarters:**

Post Box No. 528, State Bank of India Buildings, Bank Street, Koti, Hyderabad-500095

**CIRCULAR No.02**  
**TO ALL MEMBERS**

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015

## **NATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL AT NASHIK ON 3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015**

Nashik – the Grape City that witnessed huge inflow of people on the eve of Kumbh Mela was again liven-up with thousands of Comrades flooding into the City from various parts of the Country to participate in the National General Council of the organization, which was held as scheduled on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Gaikwad Sabhagruh Auditorium, Nashik.

Amidst thunderous slogans of “NCBE Zindabad”, “Our Unity Zindabad”, “NCBE March on”, “NCBE Longlive” by the militant and active comrades, the flag of the organization was unfurled by our President Com. Vinil Saxena. The dignitaries and guests were later escorted to the Auditorium with the pulsating slogans on one side and the pleasant welcome music – a traditional and exclusive popular tune of Nashik, on the other side.

The Inaugural Session on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 commenced with the invitation of dignitaries and beloved guests to the wonderfully decorated dais depicting the famous picturesque of Kumbh Mela and portraits of eminent personalities of Nashik in the colourful backdrop.

Com. Jaiprakash Khatri, Chairman, Reception Committee and General Secretary of State Bank of India Staff Union, Mumbai Circle – the host union, welcomed all the dignitaries, distinguished guests, former National Executive and Central Committee Members, Officers brethren, well-wishers and the huge gathering of militant comrades of the organization.

Com. Vinil Saxena, President, in his opening remarks highlighted the historical importance and the invaluable contribution of eminent personalities of Nashik. Com. Vinil Saxena made an exclusive remark on the evolution and growth of the organization and also its pivotal role in the remarkable improvement in the service conditions of employees in the banking industry. Com. Vinil Saxena summed up with his observation on the moves of the Government in the pretext of financial reforms affecting the work force in banking industry and the need for protecting our hard-earned rights and appealed to the members to be in readiness for any agitation programme chalked out by the organization in the days to come opposing the ill-fated moves of the Government.

Subsequent to the traditional lighting of lamp by the dignitaries on the dais, former National Executive and Central Committee members of the organization including Com. Milind Nadkarni, former President, Com. Prakash Gangal, former Senior Vice-President, Com. Bhupen Ch. Kalita, Com. C M Baskaran, former Vice-Presidents were felicitated by the President and the undersigned amidst applauds from the audience.

In his Inaugural Address, Shri Aswini Mehra, Deputy Managing Director & CDO, appreciated the role of negotiators of Tenth Bipartite Settlement for arriving at the best wage settlement under the present circumstances duly considering the paying capacity of the banks as well as the welfare of the employees in equal footing. Shri Mehra has commended the hard fought achievement of 15% increase in pay slip components and also the holidays on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays. Shri Mehra stressed on the role of every employee in improving the profile of the balance sheets of the Banks so as to provide much more benefits to the employees as well as the pensioners and also said that the Public Sector Banks have a very significant role in the implementation of Government initiatives and act as a catalyst in ensuring the end results of achievement towards building a strong India.

The booklet of Tenth Bipartite Settlement was later released by Shri Aswini Mehra.

The Chief Guest, Dr. R. Ramakumar, Professor & Dean, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, in his Keynote address, gave details of transformation in the banking industry during the last more than three decades since nationalization to the present period of financial reforms that affected the public banking to a greater extent and impressed upon the need to protect the objective of public banking. Dr. Ramakumar mesmerized the audience with his spell bound speech covering three major topics such as Effects of Financial Sector Reforms on Banking in India, Rural Banking and Financial Inclusion.

Dr. Ramakumar said that balance of payment crisis that led to financial liberalisation has undermined the sole objective of public banking for social purposes through nationalization of banks in 1969 and brought a drastic change in the approach of Government through insistence on increasing the profits, that is being thrust on the Government by the outside finance capital investors. The policy of financial liberalization, according to Dr. Ramakumar, also forces the Government to cut more and more public expenditure leading to encouragement of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Micro-financing, where the motive of huge profit dominates, resultantly affecting the needy and poor general public. Dr. Ramakumar expressed his displeasure on the force being exerted on the Public Sector Banks by Government towards lending finance to PPPs, who are rich private players, earning huge profits without any investment and exploitation of poor masses by the Micro-financing agencies with their exorbitant rate of interest.

Dr. Ramakumar, further said that the green revolution that was brought through Rural Credit on account of nationalization has been done away with the sly categorization of financing of tractors and agri products to big investors under agriculture sector resulting in total neglect of low interest rate finance to the real needy farmers. Dr. Ramakumar expressed his anguish over the loans attracting huge rate of interest i.e., as high as between 24% and 36% to the needy poor while the rich category of people are offered car loans, housing loans, etc. at a very low rate of interest ranging from 8% to 10%.

Dr. Ramakumar was highly critical about the attitude of RBI for its comment in its Annual Report that 'Freedom from poverty is not for free' and said that the negligence of social banking is not expected of from the Central Bank of the country, particularly when huge loans availed by big wigs have become NPAs affecting the entire banking industry.

Dr. Ramakumar condemned the various initiatives of the Government-RBI combine in the name of Financial Inclusion, Jan Dhan Yojana, Linking of Aadhaar to anything and everything, Banking service through Business Correspondents, etc. and opined that Financial Inclusion and other initiatives are due to their dependence on financial liberalization and are not going to benefit the Country in any manner.

Shri Jayasri Priyalal, Director Finance, UNI, Pacific & Asia cautioned about the dangers to the Trade Unions and entire labour force arising out of liberalization of labour market and the resultant effect of losing the existing hard earned rights of trade unions. While preferring a change in the attitude of various governments all over the world based on "Think Locally and Act Globally", Shri Priyalal appealed to all the Trade Unions in the Country to unite under one roof globally and display international solidarity to fight with the inimical forces that are bent upon demolishing the financial sector, particularly banking sector, all over the world. Shri Priyalal expressed fear that the ill-fate of banking sector on account of reforms would even spread to other sectors also, which can be overcome only through united and sustained struggles of Trade Unions all over the world.

Com. Subhash Sawant, General Secretary, Indian National Bank Employees Federation (INBEF) stressed on the need for recovery of NPAs and stern action and punishment against willful defaulters. Com. Subhash was also of the view that service conditions of bank employees can be improved if proper efforts are made to recover the huge NPAs and warned that Trade Union actions cannot be stopped because of vindictive actions of the management.

Com. Pradip Biswas, General Secretary, Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI) felt proud that the trade unions under the banner of United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) has the credit of preventing the disaster of recession in the year 2008 through its continued opposition to the reform measures of the Government since 1991. He opined that it was the public sector system that insulated the effects of recession and saved the country. Com. Pradip condemned the backdoor methods being adopted by the Government to privatise the banking sector and expressed his resentment over licenses to Payment Banks and proposed amendments to labour laws, which are detrimental to the interests of the labour force and the trade unions in the country.

Com. Mohan Kumtakar, General Secretary, National Organisation of Bank Workers informed that he feels proud for being a part of four bipartite settlements as signatory and also for being a part of the united movement of bank employees under the banner of UFBU. Com. Kumtakar appealed to all workers for striving to unite the world.

The message of greetings sent by Com. C H Venkatachalam, General Secretary, All India Bank Employees' Association was read out before the distribution of prizes to the winners of Poster and Slogan competitions conducted by the MS Patel SBI Employees Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., Mumbai to the School Children on the social topics of "Female Foeticide" and "Atrocities on women". As an interlude, the audience was delighted and made dumb found by the emotional One Act Play by the young talented Com. Shailee Kadam, Customer Assistant of State Bank of India.

Com. Sanjeev Bandlish, Senior Vice-President expressed that the initiatives of the Government in the establishment of Local Area Banks, permission to open banks by Private players, foreigners and licenses to Payments Banks, etc. are with an intention to weaken trade unions and questioned the ill-fated move of the Government to weaken PSBs despite their major contribution to all the social initiatives of the Government. Com. Bandlish asserted that even recent recruits would be under the fold of trade unions and fight against the inimical forces that be in protecting the public sector banks.

Com. R K Sharma, Senior Vice-President was critical about the sabotaging moves of the Government in the name of financial reforms and appealed for united struggle in facing the challenges thrown open before the trade unions.

Com. M V Murali, General Secretary profusely thanked the dignitaries for their gracious presence and inspiring speeches as well. Com. Murali expressed that the Public Sector Banks suffer losses on account of implementation of various programmes of Government aiming social objective whereas Private Sector Banks do not venture in those areas because of non-profitability. Whereas unnecessary, unwarranted and unparallel comparisons are being drawn between PSBs and Private Banks in the areas of productivity, business per employee, profit per employee, etc., the parameters which are incomparable. Com. Murali appealed to all the comrades to be in readiness for agitation programmes opposing the ill-fated moves of the Government through backdoor method towards privatization of public sector banks. Com. Murali conveyed his whole-hearted thanks to all the constituent unions of UFBU for their unstinted support and confidence reposed on him that ensured a reasonable 10<sup>th</sup> Bipartite wage revision.

Com. Hari A Prabhu, President of the host union - State Bank of India Staff Union, Mumbai Circle proposed Vote of thanks that marked the conclusion of Inaugural Session.

In the delegate session that was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015, extensive deliberations were made by the enthusiastic delegates from the affiliated unions of the organisation on the areas covered under the Report of General Secretary and the related resolutions. The General Secretary's Report as well as the resolutions were passed unanimously by the National General Council. The National General Council approved unanimously the Statements of Accounts submitted by the General Secretary for the years from 2011 to 2014.

Com. M V Murali briefed the delegates about the formation of sub-committee to strengthen the organisation at Central/State level, the recommendations of the sub-committee and proposed various amendments to Rules & Bye-laws of NCBE and Model Bye-laws to the State Federations, which were unanimously approved by the National General Council.

The National General Council also authorized the General Secretary to appoint Auditors and fix their remuneration.

The National General Council concluded subsequent to unanimous election of the members to the National Executive Committee and Central Committee for the ensuing term.

We wholeheartedly thank all the delegates and observers, who ensured grand success of the National General Council by their presence in large numbers. We also take this opportunity to place on record the marathon efforts made by Com. Jaiprakash Khatri, Chairman, Reception Committee and General Secretary of the host union - State Bank of India Staff Union, Mumbai Circle and all members of the Reception Committee and huge number of volunteers, because of whose immeasurable contributions, the conduct of National General Council was excellent and memorable.

***"LET'S MOVE TOGETHER TOWARDS SUCCESS IN ALL OUR ENDEAVOURS"***

**Sd/-  
(M. V. MURALI)  
GENERAL SECRETARY**

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NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF BANK EMPLOYEES :::::::::::::::::::: ZINDABAD!  
OUR SOLIDARITY :::::::::::::::::::: ZINDABAD!  
OUR UNITY :::::::::::::::::::: ZINDABAD!