

UNITED FORUM OF BANK UNIONS

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SANJEEV K. BANDLISH

Convenor

CIRCULAR No. UFBU/2021/23

Date: 14.12.2021

TO ALL CONSTITUENT UNIONS/MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

- **Our call for strike on 16th and 17th December, 2021**
- **One more round of conciliation meeting held today**

Vide our Circular No. 20 Dated 08-12-2021 we had informed our unions and members about the conciliation held by the Addl. Chief Labour Commissioner, Ministry of Labour, Government of India on 08-12-2021.

As suggested and advised by the Addl. CLC, the IBA had convened a virtual meeting on 10-12-2021 with our Unions wherein also we had reiterated our viewpoints against the move of the Government to amend the Banking Laws to enable privatisation of the Banks. We had urged upon the IBA that if they would like the strike to be averted, then they should prevail upon the Government not to proceed with the introduction of the Bill in the current session of the Parliament.

In this background, the adjourned conciliation meeting was held today in Delhi before Shri S.C. Joshi, the Addl. CLC. From our side, representatives of AIBEA, AIBOC, NCBE, AIBOA, BEFI, INBOC and INBEF were present. Representatives of BKSM, who have also served the strike notice, were also present.

From IBA, Mr. Gopal Murli Bhagat, Dy. Chief Executive was present. From the Ministry of Finance, Government of India Mr. Sameer Shukla, Joint Secretary and Mr. S.R. Meher, Director from DFS were present.

During the conciliation, the IBA appealed that looking to the present scenario of the banking industry in the pandemic situation, the Unions may defer the strike.

The Finance Ministry representatives explained that except the announcement in the Budget, no concrete steps have been taken by the Government and even though the Bill has been listed in the agenda, they were not sure when and whether the Bill will be taken up by the Parliament and hence the Unions should not proceed with their call for strike.

From our side, our representatives explained that in the larger interest of our country, its economy and the people, public sector banks must continue to play the leading role and measures like privatisation of banks are undesirable. We also pointed out that the Unions have given the call for strike only because the Privatisation Bill has been listed in the agenda and the Unions would be inclined to reconsider the strike call only if the Government could assure that the Bill would not be introduced in the current session.

We further stated that the Government must initiate wider discussions on the issue with all stake-holders including bank employees, officers and the trade unions before such measures are taken by the Government.

We also expressed our strong resentment that while the UFBU has given the strike notice on the IBA and Government, and when the issue is seized in conciliation at the level of Addl. CLC, the individual bank managements have been contacting the unions in different banks and even the general rank and file employees and officers and asking them not to participate in the strike which are acts of unfair labour practice and in effect interference in the right of the members of the unions to engage in concerted activities for the purposes of collective bargaining and hence the same is prohibited under the Industrial Disputes Act. We urged upon the Addl. CLC to advise the IBA to suitably advise the member banks in this regard.

Since the Government and IBA representatives could not give any assurance regarding the non-introduction of the Bill as sought for by us, we regretted our inability to accede to their appeal to withdraw our strike call.

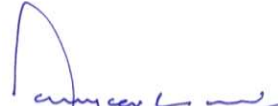
The Addl. CLC, advised the parties to pursue the issue further so that some amicable solution could be worked out to avert the strike and advised the IBA to further continue the dialogue with the Unions. The IBA assured him that one more round of meeting would be held with the Unions on 15th instant. Addl. CLC said he would also hold one more round of conciliation on 15th instant.

Comrades, it would be clear to all of us from the above proceedings that the Government could not make any assurance as desired by us and hence we need to go ahead with the strike all.

Accordingly, we request all our unions and members to move ahead and make the strike action on 16th and 17th December, 2021 a total success.

With warm greetings,

Yours comradely,


(SANJEEV K. BANDLISH)
CONVENOR