

UNITED FORUM OF BANK UNIONS

(AIBEA-AIBOC-NCBE-AIBOA-BEFI-INBEF-INBOC-NOBW-NOBO)

C/o State Bank of India, LHO, Plot No. 1, Sector-17A, Chandigarh-160 017

Phone (Office): 0172-4567142, 4567042, 2702518 Fax – 0172-2721716

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K K NAIR

Chairman

SANJEEV K. BANDLISH

Convenor

UFBU / 2018 / STRIKE NOTICE

10th December, 2018

FORM – 1

NOTICE OF STRIKE

NAME OF UNION : UNITED FORUM OF BANK UNIONS (U.F.B.U.)

Constituted by:

- 1. ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION (AIBEA)**
- 2. ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION (AIBOC)**
- 3. NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF BANK EMPLOYEES (NCBE)**
- 4. ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (AIBOA)**
- 5. BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION OF INDIA (BEFI)**
- 6. INDIAN NATIONAL BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION (INBEF)**
- 7. INDIAN NATIONAL BANK OFFICERS CONGRESS (INBOC)**
- 8. NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF BANK WORKERS (NOBW)**
- 9. NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF BANK OFFICERS (NOBO)**

NAMES OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

- 1 Shri. Sanjeev K. Bandlish, Convenor UFBU /General Secretary, NCBE
- 2 Shri. C.H. Venkatachalam, General Secretary, AIBEA
- 3 Shri. Sowmya Dutta, General Secretary, AIBOC
- 4 Shri. S. Nagarajan, General Secretary, AIBOA
- 5 Shri. Pradip Biswas, General Secretary, BEFI
- 6 Shri. Subhash S. Sawant, General Secretary, INBEF
- 7 Shri. K.K. Nair, General Secretary, INBOC
- 8 Shri. Upendra Kumar, General Secretary, NOBW
- 9 Shri. V V Tikekar, General Secretary, NOBO

Dated this day of 10th December, 2018

- 1. The Chairman,
Indian Banks' Association,
World Trade Centre Complex,
6th Floor, Centre 1 Building,
Cuffe Parade,
Mumbai. 400 005**
- 2. Managing Director & CEO
Bank of Baroda,
Baroda Corporate Centre,
Plot No. C-26, Block G,
Bandra Kurla Complex,
Bandra (East),
Mumbai 400 051**
- 3. Managing Director & CEO
Dena Bank
Dena Corporate Centre
C-10, G-Block,
Bandra-Kurla Complex,
Bandra (East),
Mumbai - 400 051**
- 4. Managing Director & CEO
Vijaya Bank
Head office,
41/2, Trinity Circle,
M.G. Road,
BENGALURU – 560001**

Dear Sirs,

In accordance with the provisions contained in sub-section (1) of Section 22 of the I.D. Act – 1947, we hereby give you notice that the members of all the constituent unions of **United Forum of Bank Unions (AIBEA, AIBOC, NCBE, AIBOA, BEFI, INBEF, INBOC, NOBW, NOBO)** propose to go on strike **from 6.00 am on 26th December, 2018 to 6.00 am on 27th December, 2018** on the following demands:

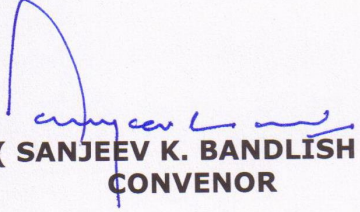
OPPOSING:

- **Government's decision to amalgamate Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank into one single Bank.**
- **Decision taken by the Boards of Directors of Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to proceed with the amalgamation of these Banks.**
- **Attempts to divert the nation's attention from the main issue of huge bad loans in these Banks**

DEMANDING:

- **Withdrawal of the decision by the Government of India**
- **Rescinding the decision of Boards of Directors in these three Banks**
- **Stop merger of Banks, Start recovery of bad loans**

The details of the programme and the Statement of the case are furnished herein.



(SANJEEV K. BANDLISH)
CONVENOR

- Encl :**
- 1. Details of Agitational Programme**
 - 2. Statement of the Case**

Copy to :

1. Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), New Delhi
2. Secretary, Dept. of Financial Services, MoF, Govt. of India
3. CMDs/MDs/CEOs of All Banks
4. Chief Executive, IBA, Mumbai

AGITATIONAL PROGRAMME

10-12-2018	Letter to Finance Minister
10-12-2018	Serving Strike Notice on IBA
12-12-2018	Display of poster before all bank branches/offices
13-12-2018	Demonstrations before all branches
18-12-2018	Badge Wearing
24-12-2018	Centralised Demonstrations
26-12-2018	All India Strike

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Whereas as Government of India made their announcement on 17th September, 2018 about the decision of their Alternative Mechanism to amalgamate 3 Banks viz. Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank into one single Bank and

Whereas United Forum of Bank Unions and our constituent unions expressed protest through demonstrations all over the country on 18th September, 2018 to draw the attention of the Government and

Whereas on 24th September, 2018, the Board of Directors of Dena Bank approved the proposal that Dena Bank be amalgamated with Bank of Baroda and Vijaya Bank and

Whereas this was immediately protested by our unions and

Whereas on 29th September, 2018, the Boards of Directors of Bank of Baroda and Vijaya Bank took similar decisions in their Board meetings and

Whereas our members in these two Banks conveyed their strong protests through wearing of protest black badges and demonstrations were also held by all bank employees to oppose these decisions and

Whereas sensing that the Banks are moving as per the dictates of the Government to proceed with the amalgamation of these three Banks, UFBU gave the call to hold protest demonstrations on 9th October, 2018 and accordingly all over the country bank employees and officers expressed their total opposition to the decision of the Government to close down these three Banks and instead make one single banking entity and

Whereas in the meeting of the United Forum of Bank Unions held on 12th October, 2018, it was decided that in view of the Government proceeding

with their decisions despite our protest, further programmes should be undertaken to express our protests and

Whereas on 23rd October, 2018 once again protest demonstrations were held all over the country to record our protest against the proposal to amalgamate these three Banks into one Bank and

Whereas on 2nd November, 2018, United Forum of Bank Unions addressed a detailed letter to the Hon Minister for Finance about reasons for our opposition to the proposed amalgamation of three Banks and urging upon the Government the reconsider their decision (copy enclosed herein) and

Whereas there has been absolutely no response to any of these protest programmes either from the Government or from the concerned Banks but on the other hands steps are being taken to proceed with the decision to amalgamate these Banks and

Whereas it is become inevitable for the United Forum of Bank Unions to convey our protest and draw the attention of the Government and Bank managements through agitational programmes and strike action and accordingly this Notice of strike is being served after exhausting all reasonable avenues to convey our protests and the Government and concerned banks remaining adamant and determined on their decision.

Hence the strike call.

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K K NAIR

Chairman

SANJEEV K. BANDLISH

Convenor

No. UFBU/2018/ 14

Date : 02.11.2018

To

**Shri Arun Jaitley
Hon Minister for Finance,
Government of India,
New Delhi**

Respected Sir,

Reg: Reconsideration of the decision on proposed amalgamation of Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank

We note with great concern and anxiety the recent announcement of the Government's decision on the proposed amalgamation of Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank.

We have been repeatedly drawing the attention of the Government and the bank managements that while the Banks are suffering from problems on account of huge bad loans, the Banks and banking staff are being painted with a black brush for no fault of them. If today, as on 31-3-2018, 19 Banks out of 21 Public Sector Banks are in Net Loss position, as everyone knows, it is only on account of the huge provisions that have been forced on the Bank because of the bad loans. Otherwise there is no major problem facing the Banks. All the Banks are earning Operating Profits and for the year ended 31-3-2018, public sector banks earned a total Operating Profit of Rs. 155,000 crores.

As Government knows, public sector banks have been doing yeomen services and are immensely contributing for the economic development of our nation. Given the present economic scenario, public sector banks have further role to play and hence banks have to be readied and equipped for this purpose. More and more branches have to be opened to make banking services available to all people. Jan Dhan Yojana has helped to open large number of bank accounts for people who were hitherto denied the same. Still Banks have to further expand and reach each and every citizen of this country.

Government is aware that banking density in India is one of the lowest when compared to many countries of the world. Hence expansion of banks is the utmost need. But the Government wants to consolidate the Banks through amalgamation and mergers. As a part of this agenda, recently Government has announced through the Alternative Mechanism that Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank are to be amalgamated.

The reasons being advanced from the Government for this proposal is that the amalgamated Bank will become a bigger bank and thus will be more efficient in its performance.

Sir, we have the experience of the merger of 6 Banks with State Bank of India in April, 2017. 18 months have passed and we only see increased problems for SBI after the merger. Number of branches have been closed down and further closure of branches are afoot. Employees have been eased out under voluntary retirement scheme to reduce the alleged surplus staff. Fresh employment in SBI has drastically come down. There are reports that clients have switched over from SBI being not satisfied with the merger.

The bad loans of SBI have gone up steeply after merger. From Rs.177,000 crores as on 31-3-2017, the total bad loans as on 31-03-2018 has gone up to Rs.225,000 crores.

Thus, our experience is that merger of banks has not been helpful in achieving the purpose for which such mergers are undertaken. We also strongly feel the main issue confronting the Banks which is increasing bad loans, will get relegated by bringing proposals of consolidation and merger of banks to the fore.

Further, Government is aware that in many developed countries big banks have posed big risks and Governments in those countries had to bail them out through public exchequer. Hence, in India, where our Banks are dealing with huge public savings, making our Banks bigger may be an undesirable proposition.

Our Public Sector Banks have their glorious history of more than 100 years in many cases and have their own unique culture, geographical spread, special contribution to our country in different States, etc. It would be unwise to dismantle these Banks in the name of mergers and consolidation.

In view of the above, we are of the considered opinion that in India banks need to be expanded and not consolidated. We strongly urge upon the Government to reconsider its stand and rescind the proposal of amalgamation of Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully

Sd.. Sanjeev K Bandlish
Convenor