



Canara Bank Workers' Organisation (Regd.)

(Affiliated to NOBW & BMS)

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Circular No. 1/97

Phalgun Shukla 9

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WATCH YOUR PAY SLIP!

Friends,

The Meteorite which was about to hit the Banking Industry in the country has been deflected at the last moment, thanks to the united efforts made by all the Trade Unions, in the Banking Sector.

Yes, we are discussing the Affairs of UCO Bank. The news item which rocked the Banking Circles was the proposed Wage Freeze for the employees of UCO Bank. The aftermath of financial sector reforms, pioneered by the Narasimhan Committee Recommendations in the Banking arena on the one hand, and the open-door policy of soliciting multinational Mega-Financiers to play on the uneven playgrounds in the country, on the other hand, has begun showing symptoms of stress and erosion of HRD ethics.

The UCO Bank had been flashing signs of sickness, in the past four years. The non-performing assets of the Bank showed alarmingly higher figures cornering the substantial working funds of the Bank. The management of the Bank, instead of cutting corners in the business deficits by revamping the recovery machinery and exercising strong will power to curb political interference, has chosen to cut the pockets of the employees by strangulating their legitimate earnings.

The grand plans to project the employees of UCO Bank, as the culprits for the deterioration, has been successfully thwarted by the timely intervention of the entire Trade Union Movement in the country. The ultimatum given to the Board of UCO Bank - which was scheduled to meet on 19-2-1997 to decide about the wage freeze - was to repeal the proposed wage freeze immediately, lest all the employees (workmen and officers) would go on strike on 28th Feb 1997. Apparently, wise counsel prevailed and the proposal was withdrawn.

Friends, this is not an occasion to rejoice over the momentary victory. This is not a time for remaining complacent also. The events which led the UCO Bank Management to resort to wage freeze might recur in any other Bank. The ugly designs of the powers-that-be are farfetching. Perhaps, the UCO Bank episode was only a warning signal. Worst may yet to come. (There were already reports that Six More Banks were identified for wage freeze) If that was only a "Meteorite", the next one will be a "Comet" encapsulating the entire Banking Sector. Therefore let us not live under pretensions that the fire next door will not engulf our house. Because, the days of Optimum Utilisation of Manpower has given way to Irrevocable Implementation of Computerisation. This transformation has eroded in its wake, the delicacies of human values, personal relationships and the strong bond between the management and the workforce.

NEXT MOVE IN TOGETHERNESS.

In the backdrop of above situation, it is fortunate that the leaders of all the Trade Unions in the Banking Industry have joined together to fight for the implementation of several issues affecting all the employees. The common issues/demands which are taken for struggle are:

1. Protest against establishment of local Area Private Banks
2. Protest against
 - (a) non-Implementation of pension settlement in private Banks
 - (b) anti-employee clause in pension regulation to deny pension to bank employees and officers by adding the words " participation in illegal strike"
3. Protest against non-implementation of 6th Bipartite Settlement and officers salary revision in Regional Rural Banks.
4. Protest against Virtual ban on recruitment and also on compassionate appointment.
5. For removal of ceiling on Gratuity and Bonus.

The following agitational programme has been chalked out in the meeting at Mumbai, attended by the leaders of AIBEA, NOBW, NCBE, BEFI and INBEF, for the workmen, and, leaders of AIBOC, NOBO, AIBOA and INBOC for the officers fraternity.

13-3-1997 Tiffin Time Demonstrations

25-3-1997 Observance of All-India day through badge wearing

3-4-1997 Joint Rally by all unions

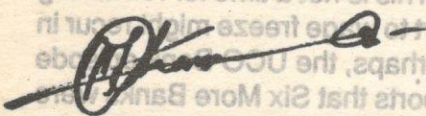
4-4-1997 **ALL INDIA STRIKE** from 6 a.m. on 4-4-97 to 6 a.m. on 5-4-1997.

Leaders of all the unions shall meet the Finance Minister, leaders of all political parties and attempt will be made to meet the Prime Minister as well.

Friends, the assertions made by NOBW on earlier occasions that there must be Joint Discussions, Joint Action Plans, Joint Decisions and Joint Execution of Decisions have come true. The historical attainment of common wave length amongst all the Trade Unions to fight for the common issues has begun a new era in industrial relations.

Therefore, let us all march ahead as the ever vigilant torch bearers and make the agitation programme a landmark success. Please participate with full vigour at all stages of agitation in consultation with the local representatives.

Fraternally yours,



Mohan Kumtakar
General Secretary

ANTI IMPERIALISM DAY - 5th MARCH 1997

The finance Minister of the Country, during his recent visit to London extended open invitation to the British by stating that;

"You British ruled us for two hundred years during your last visit and you are welcome again to India and be rewarded appropriately".

Wah!! Patriotism personified I

Dhanya Hai Bharath Matha !!

To protest against the shameful subservience, anti-imperialism day was observed on 5th march 1997

CBWO - ZINDABAD NOBW - ZINDABAD BMS - ZINDABAD

BHARATH MATA KI JAI