ALL INDIA UNION BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION

(Celebrating 60 years of Glorious existence)

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To All Units and CC members, Woman Sub-Committee Members & Permanent Invitees

Dear Comrades,

The amalgamation of 10 public sector banks into four has been working smoothly for the past two months without any heartburns as the employee benefit schemes have been extended to all the employees – Com. C H Venkatachalam, GS, AIBEA

The above statement of the General Secretary, AIBEA appeared in Economic Times in its 25th May 2020 edition. He went further to explain in this regard, *"Each bank had its own employee benefit schemes. The scheme that is most beneficial to the employees were extended to all the employees of the amalgamated entity. This way heartburns were not created."* Let the members of AIBEA in the amalgamated entity of Union Bank of India say from their own experience whether this statement of the General Secretary of their national level union (AIBEA) is true or false. He may be annoyed with us, but we must say that his statement is a travesty of truth. Anyway, why do we make such comment, let us explain.

There had been 4 sets amalgamation of PSU banks effective from 1st April 2020 out of which one set is merger of Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank with Union Bank of India. In terms of notification for amalgamation and assurance given by the MD & CEO of Union Bank of India on 1st April 2020 that the best of the staff benefits existing in 3 banks would be extended to all the employees of amalgamated entity of Union Bank of India. Despite these assurances, what had happened? For officer colleagues the benefits were harmonised and extended with effect from 01.04.2020 but, for the Award staff members such harmonisation is yet to take place. In absence of the harmonisation, Com. Venkatachalam himself, on record, requested the Management to allow the employees to draw their existing benefit. Being the same person how he could give the statement to Economic Times that the scheme that is most beneficial to the employees were extended to all the employees of the amalgamated entity of Union Bank of India also !! Therefore, the statement is not only a travesty of truth but also having an ulterior motive.

It appears mysterious to us that on 22nd October 2019 AIBEA under his leadership observed countrywide strike along with BEFI against mega merger, on 4th March 2020 again under his leadership AIBEA along with AIBOA announced a countrywide strike on 27th March 2020 against same merger issue, on 12th March 2020 i.e. after 7 days of the announcement of strike call he held a meeting of the leaders of AIBEA unions in those 10 banks (listed in merger decision) for the purpose of integrating AIBEA unions in those banks after merger despite existence of 27th March strike call against merger, subsequently the strike call was withdrawn and on 25th May 2020 he expressed solace on behalf of the Management that "The amalgamation of 10 public sector banks into four has been working smoothly for the past two months without any heartburns."

Being a national leader of the bank employees mvement while his duty should have been to expose and condemn the attitude of Union Bank Management before the Press and to help and guide the effort being made for building up a united movement of the employees of amalgamated Union Bank of India to compel the Management for releasing the best of the benefits w.e.f. 01.04.2020 without any precondition; we are afraid that his statement will cause serious harm to said effort but, on the other hand will stimulate Management's effort to accomplish their game plan.

Union Bank employees, irrespective of union affiliation have to reject such motivated statement from whomsoever it might be and come forward to build up a strong movement unitedly or by their own organisation to defeat Management's whims and anti-employee attitudes.

With Greetings,

Yours comradely

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Jagannath Chakraborty General Secretary