



# BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION OF INDIA

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To all Units, Office Bearers, CC & GC Members

## **COMRADE SANTI RANJAN BAL IS NO MORE**

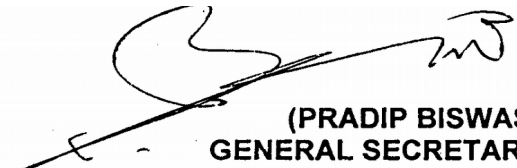
Comrade Santi Ranjan Bal, a Legend of bank employees movement of the country, breathed his last yesterday at 6.30 in the morning at his residence. Of late he was not doing well and had to be hospitalized for some days in the week before last as he was feeling respiratory problem. After treatment in the hospital for about a week, he was brought home back. Suddenly his condition deteriorated in the late night on 20<sup>th</sup> and breathed his last yesterday. He was 87 and left behind his two daughter and grand children. His eyes and body were handed to hospitals of the city for the cause of medical science.

Comrade S. R. Bal, popularly known as Bal-da to us all, was born in the village of Muninag of Barishal district of undivided Bengal and now in Bangladesh. After passing Matriculation from Barishal in the year 1945 he came to Kolkata (then Calcutta) and passed Intermediate in Commerce in the year 1947 from Vidyasagar college of Kolkata. After partition of the country, in the year 1948 his family shifted to Kolkata.

Comrade S. R. Bal joined the service of UCO Bank (then known as United Commercial Bank) in the year 1949. Under private regime, wage cuts, show cause memos, charge sheets and even dismissals were the order of the day in banks and erstwhile United Commercial Bank was no exception. Comrade Bal stood bravely against all these offensives by mobilizing the common employees of the bank. In the process he remained in the forefront of all struggles in the bank and was elected as the General Secretary of United Commercial Bank Employees Association (UCBEA) in the year 1958 and served the Association in that capacity or as President for more than three decades. Comrade Bal was pioneer in organising the UCO bank employees all over the country under the banner of UCBEA.

A close associate of Comrade Naresh Paul and Comrade Asish Sen, Comrade S.R.Bal was one of the icons of alternative path of bank employees movement with class approach. During the formative stage of BEFI, Comrade S. R. Bal played a leading role and was elected as the Joint Secretary from the foundation conference of BEFI in the year 1982 and later was elected as its Secretary and was our Adviser till death. He played leading role during industry level negotiations with IBA. He was also instrumental in formation of UFBU. Com Bal was a strong believer of Marxist ideology and was a member of CPI (M) till his death.

Comrade Bal-da's death is a great loss for the bank employees movement and the vacuum so created is very difficult to fill in. We dip our banner in respectful homage to Comrade Santi Ranjan Bal, our beloved Bal-da and convey our sense of condolence to all members of the bereaved family.



(PRADIP BISWAS)  
GENERAL SECRETARY