

ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

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AIBEA/GS/2020/38

29-3-2020

To **Shri. Sunil Mehta,** Chief Executive, Indian Banks' Association Mumbai

Dear Sir,

Reg: COVID19

1. We have taken up a number of issues with the IBA through our letters on the various problems being faced by the employees on account of the outbreak of the corona virus and threat of infection as well as the scenario before us on account of lockdown, curfew, etc. So far we have not come across any common guidelines from IBA on these issues but we find that each Bank is giving its own guidelines on monetary relief, relaxations in service conditions, facilities to be provided, etc. We are sure that IBA being a collective representative body will appreciate that this is not desirable. This is creating a lot of confusion amongst the bank employees that when the problem is common, why the guidelines are different in different Banks.

2. Similarly, we wrote to IBA to consider donation of one day wage through encashment of PL. So far we have not heard anything in this regard. But Banks have individually started asking their employees to donate Wage by one day/2 days PL encashment. This is giving an impression that Bank managements/IBA are not one on this issue. A common guideline from IBA in this regard will dispel this impression.

3. Thirdly, we have written to IBA to advice all the Banks that in view of the heavy rush that is expected from tomorrow due to salary credits, pension credits, implementation of Govt. announced benefits, etc., adequate staff should be provided in smaller branches besides proper security arrangements to regulate the customers to come inside the branch premises to ensure adherence to social distancing norms. Otherwise there may be pandemonium in many branches besides health risk.

4. We have also written to you about the problems being faced by employees in attending office in view of shut of local transport and train

services. They are willing to attend but there is no transport facility for them to travel and reach their branches. In such cases, management should consider making necessary arrangements wherever possible so that employees will be able to attend the branches and render service.

IBA can also advise the Banks to consider allowing employees to report and work at nearby Branches which will be helpful to the employees as well as to the Banks in getting additional manpower in the Branches to cope up with the expected additional rush.

5. Similarly, pregnant lady employees and employees with physical disabilities can be given preference to work from home when the staff are rotated for this purpose to attend office alternatively.

6. We are informed that some of the bank managements are sending instructions that in view of the Annual closing, heavy rush of customers, etc. in the ensuing days, all Branches should be kept open and staff should "somehow" attend the office. This is not at all acceptable to us and we wish to make it clear that if public or private transport facilities are not available and if managements are unable to make any arrangements, employees cannot be expected to attend office.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

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C.H.VENKATACHALAM GENERAL SECRETARY

Copy to : Chairman, IBA

With a request to intervene in the matter

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