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State Bank of India Staff Union Hyderabad Circle

H.Q. HYDERABAD

Regd. No. 1990

(AFFILIATED TO ALL INDIA STATE BANK OF INDIA STAFF FEDERATION)

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CIRCULAR No.02 TO ALL UNITS/MEMBERS

Date :: 24th May 2016

GENERAL BODY MEETING - HYDERABAD ON 23rd AND 24TH APRIL 2016

The General Body Meeting of our Union was held as scheduled at Hyderabad on the 23rd and 24th April 2016 combining with the General Body Meeting of our Federation.

The combined Inaugural Session of the General Body Meeting of our Union and Federation was held on 23rd April 2016 in the eye-catching huge Indoor Stadium at Gachibowli, Hyderabad.

The infinite number of buntings decorated in the exterior and passage to the auditorium very precisely and artistically attracted the eyes of the viewers. Flexi banners with apt quotations and the flapping logo flags in multi-colours enhanced the image of the venue of the meeting. It was delight to watch the extravaganza of the combined inaugural session in the auditorium with wonderful architecture, which was packed full-house by the presence of more than 6000 delegates and observers, who attended the Conference.

The dignitaries, office-bearers of affiliate circle unions of Federation, honourable guests, delegates and observers were greeted with the festive initial procession at the entrance of the auditorium. Com. Sanjeev Kumar Bandlish, President of the Federation and Com. M V Murali, President and Com. V V S R Sarma, General Secretary of our Union along with Bro. Phillip Jennings, the General Secretary of UNI Global Union were escorted in a decorated vehicle by the young, energetic and active comrades dancing to the beats of 'Teen Maar' upto the spot of flag hoisting. Amidst huge slogans like "AISBISF Zindabad", "SBISUHC Zindabad", "Our Unity Zindabad" and rendering of a beautiful song written for the occasion, the flags of the Federation and the Union were unfurled by Com. Sanjeev Kumar Bandlish and Com. M V Murali respectively, initiating the historic inaugural ceremony on a wonderfully elevated greenery platform.

The Inaugural Session commenced with the most entertaining musical extravaganza starting with the most popular song of "Mile sur mera Tumhara" followed by the other musical hits of yester-years befitting to the occasion and mind blowing Kuchipudi dance by children whose methodical movements mesmerized the audience. Thereafter, the dignitaries were invited to the dais amidst thunderous applause of the audience. The floral sprinkles through tiny-copters and picturisation through the amazing 'Drone' were not only unique attraction to the dignitaries and audience but also brought moments of surprising joy to everyone assembled thereat.

Com. V V S R Sarma, Chairman, Reception Committee and General Secretary of our Union presented the welcome address and greeted all the dignitaries, delegates and observers to the Conference.

Com. Sanjeev K Bandlish, President, All India State Bank of India Staff Federation in his presidential address, congratulated the organizers for the excellent and mind-blowing arrangements made for the conference and expressed hope that the vital issues would be deliberated thoroughly in the delegate session and appropriate decisions would be arrived at. Com. Bandlish further stressed on the need for maintaining our unity as it is essential in the present environment where the Government is more aggressively pushing the reforms agenda initiated by previous Governments and also the retrograde amendments to labour laws, which are on the whole much against the interests of the general public.

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Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Hon'ble Union Minister for Labour & Employment, the Inaugurator, spoke high about Hyderabad and the prestigious Indoor Stadium at Gachibowli and appreciated the role of All India State Bank of India Staff Federation and State Bank of India Staff Union Hyderabad Circle even in social welfare activities like providing relief to Tsunami and Hud Hud Cyclone affected public. Shri Dattatreya expressed happiness over the role of SBI in effectively maintaining 45% of the Provident Fund Contributions totaling Rs.8 lac crores, which has paved the way for recommendation of upward revision in EPF interest rate at 8.8% by the Central Board of Trustees of EPFO. Hon'ble Minister was more appreciative and congratulated the bank employees lead by State Bank of India in the record opening of 21 crore accounts of poor people under PMJDY. He further praised SBI for retaining the identity of Public Sector character effectively all these years. Shri Dattatreya also insisted on more empowerment to women and opined that women are equally capable in handling difficult situations. Shri Dattatreya also complimented the Federation for being non-political and independent organisation and wished for more and more non-political trade unions.

Shri Ashwini Mehra, DMD & CDO, SBI, Corporate Centre, Mumbai, who was the Chief Guest, in his speech paid rich tributes to Com. M V Murali for his cool approach and high negotiating skills and said that Com. Murali has steered the organisation effectively, whether at bank level or industry level, towards fruitful results. He also appreciated Com. Murali for his balanced approach aiming welfare of employees as well as the needs of the institution towards its growth. While conveying his good wishes to the new team which takes over the mantle of the Federation subsequent to retirement of Com. Murali, Shri Mehra said that the days of confrontation have gone and now we are in an era, which believes in collaboration and conciliation which helps in resolving the issues in an amicable atmosphere. He also wished to work together with the new team towards the betterment of the bank as well as the employees and also strive to make the State Bank of India as the first choice bank in the country.

Thereafter, the Souvenir named "Accolades", which was brought out by our Union as a tribute to our beloved leader Com. M V Murali on his retirement on superannuation, was released by Shri Ashwini Mehra, DMD & CDO amidst thunderous applause.

Bro. Philip Jennings, General Secretary, UNI Global Union, in his Keynote Address, appealed to the Indian Government to provide support to the Indian workers, not to treat the unions as enemies, not to create competition by breaking the back of the Indian worker and wished that reforms should give dignity to the Indian working men and women. Bro. Jennings stressed the need for a global union particularly when everything in the world is measured globally like global economy, global technology, global business, global trade and so on and felt proud in conveying that UNI Global Union has succeeded in uniting the financial sector unions globally. Bro. Jennings also recalled the mobilisation of UNI Global Union, through various unions all over the world, in the submission of memorandum and messages of protest to the Indian Prime Minister supporting the cause of SBI employees during their indefinite strike on pension issue. Bro. Jennings impressed upon the need for standing together and advised the union leaders to spend time in explaining the work of the union to the new recruits in the bank, who are in large numbers.

Bro. Jennings also made a specific mention about participation of more women in the trade union arena and urged the men to pave way for the same. Bro. Jennings was in total praise on the negotiating skill of com. M V Murali and complimented Com. Murali for earning the respects of all categories of people. Bro. Jennings concluded by appealing to the Government and political parties to recognize and protect the Public Sector Banking in the country and said that the UNI Global Union is not for privatization of public sector banks.

Shri Hardayal Prasad, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Hyderabad Circle wholeheartedly thanked the organizers for inviting him to the conference as it had also provided an opportunity to him to meet many of his colleagues from all over the country. While conveying that State Bank of India is the most professional bank lending largest banking and financial services, he attributed the credit to the workmen and officer employees of Hyderabad Circle for enabling the Circle to become the 2nd largest in terms of assets. He also lauded the role of the leadership of workmen union and officers' association to the growth of the Circle. Shri Hardayal Prasad insisted on the urgent need to sharpen the focus of employees on customer service giving due cognizance to the changed competitive environment.

Bro. Jayasri Priyalal, Director (Finance), UNI Apro, Asia and Pacific Region appealed to the Unions and managements in banking industry to move together as the banking industry is in a turbulent environment. Bro. Priyalal showered high praises on the Federation and the Bank for being a role model in their respective categories. He cautioned that the innovations and technological advancements are sure to plunge into the available job opportunities. Later, on behalf of the UNI APRO and its Regional Secretary Bro. Christopher, Bro. Jayasri Priyalal and Bro. Philip Jennings presented a plaque to Com. M V Murali, as a token of appreciation to the innumerable services rendered in the trade union arena.

Com. Vinil Kumar Saxena, President NCBE congratulated the membership and the organizers for the grand success of the General Body Meeting and paid rich tributes to Com. M V Murali for his cool and composed style of working and described Com. Murali as a highly knowledgeable person, who befittingly became leader of leaders. Com. Saxena concluded his speech by conveying his best wishes to Com. Murali for a happy retired life.

Shri Y. Sudarshan, General Secretary, All India State Bank Officers' Federation complimented that the magnitude of the conference displays the festival of unity and showered high praises on Com. Murali's leadership abilities and his achievements particularly the Medical Insurance Scheme agreed at industry level under Tenth Bipartite Settlement covering even retirees. Shri Sudarshan also emphasized on the need of united struggle by all bank employees to save the Public Sector Banks in the present transition period where series of changes and challenges are unleashed from outside and within the country.

Shri A Ramesh Babu, General Secretary, Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations while conveying his wishes for a very happy retired life to Com. M V Murali said that Com. Murali, who reluctantly joined the Union, risen up to the pivotal position of Convenor of United Forum of Bank Unions by his sheer hard work and sincerity.

Shri G. Subramanyam, General Secretary, State Bank of India Officers' Association (Hyderabad Circle) said that the negotiating skills of Com. M V Murali alone played a very important role in maintaining fraternal relations during the period of negotiations on Tenth Bipartite Wage Revision that ensured successful conclusion of settlement. Shri Subramanyam complimented Com. Murali for his excellent project of establishment of Guest Houses in all the major centres of Hyderabad Circle and also at Shirdi and said that the unique qualities of Com. Murali earned praises from all categories of people including management functionaries.

Shri K K Nair, Chairman, United Forum of Bank Unions and General Secretary, Indian National Bank Officers' Congress said that he has lot of admiration to leaders of State Bank of India for their negotiating skills and attributed the credit to Com. M V Murali for the successful achievement of holidays on 2nd and 4th Saturdays and the Medical Insurance agreed under Tenth Bipartite Settlement. He further said that the inherent constraints in the Medical Insurance Scheme were already taken up with Indian Banks' Association towards resolution of the related issues.

Shri N. Arvind Kumar, General Secretary, SBI SC/ST Employees' Welfare Association said that everyone should emulate the qualities of Com. M V Murali, who took the constitution of Sastry and Desai Awards as the base and fetched many benefits to bank employees and termed Com. Murali as a silent achiever.

Com. M V Murali, General Secretary of the Federation, who is also the President of our Union, said that the present days are difficult and hard for the banking industry due to thrusting of financial reform measures by the successive Governments, that too with fast track movement of the present Government, which has absolute majority in the parliament, in implementing the reform measures despite stiff opposition from trade unions in the country. Com. Murali opined that with the sole aim of privatization of Public Sector Banks an attempt is being made by the Government to project that Public Sector Banks cannot survive on their own and appealed to the entire membership to maintain unity and collectively counter the anti-public moves of the Government. Com. Murali also suggested that a level higher than UFBU, expanding/uniting across the sector throughout the country is very much essential to halt the reform measures of the Government.

Com. M V Murali wholeheartedly thanked the entire membership and leadership of UFBU, AISBISF and our Union for the total support given to him during his tenure as office-bearer in the said organisations.

Former Executive Committee/Council Members of the Federation and Central/Working Committee Members of our union and also the top management functionaries of the Bank were felicitated during the interregnum of speeches by dignitaries during the inaugural session.

At the end of the inaugural session, Com. M V Murali was felicitated in a grand manner by the dignitaries, office-bearers of our union and Federation as a token of gratitude for the immeasurable services rendered by Com. Murali to the bank employees on the whole both at bank as well industry levels.

Thereafter, Com. R. Sriram, Secretary, Reception Committee proposed Vote of thanks, which marked the conclusion of the combined Inaugural Session of the General Body Meetings of our Union and Federation.

On 24th April 2016, the jubilant members danced to the rhythmic beats of "Thappetlu" and "Teen Maar" and accompanied the elegantly decorated chariot on which Com. M V Murali, President of our Union and the undersigned were escorted, in a well organized procession, to the meeting hall.

The delegate session started under the Chairmanship of Com. M V Murali. The General Secretary and all Vice-Presidents of our Union were on the dais.

The minutes of the previous General Body Meeting of the Union held from 16th to 18th February 2013 at Visakhapatnam, the Report of the General Secretary for the period since last General Body Meeting to this meeting and the Statements of Accounts for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 were approved unanimously by the General Body.

We are happy to inform the members that, on the proposal of the General Secretary, the General Body has unanimously approved enhancement in the limits of Benevolent Fund payable to the family members of the deceased members from the existing Rs.20,000/- to Rs.30,000/- and the amount under Gift Scheme payable to the members at the time of retirement from Bank's service from the existing Rs.5,000/- to Rs.8,000/-.

As proposed by the General Secretary, the General Body approved the formation of Election Committee with Com. K P Srinivasa Rao as Chief Election Officer for conducting elections to the Working Committee of the Union.

The General Body also adopted a unanimous resolution, as proposed by Com. M V Murali, congratulating Com. V V S R Sarma, General Secretary of our Union on his elevation to the pivotal position of President of All India State Bank of India Staff Federation. President also informed the house that Com. V V S R Sarma has been nominated by the Federation as a Management Committee Member of UNI, APRO Region.

Subsequently, the felicitation function of our beloved leader Com. M V Murali, on the eve of his retirement from Bank's service on 30th April 2016 was started with the screening of Audio-Visual on Com. M V Murali. Later, Com. C M Baskaran, former Senior Vice-President of the Federation, Comrades D S N Raju, P Nanda Kishore, K S Ramachandra Rao, former Presidents of our Union, Shri G Shankar, former Secretary General, Federation of SBI SC/ST Employees' Welfare Associations, Com. G Subramanyam, General Secretary, State Bank of India Officers' Association (Hyderabad Circle) and the undersigned were invited to the dais to participate in the farewell/felicitations function. They all complimented Com. Murali for the selfless services rendered to the Circle and National level organization and to the entire workforce of Banking Industry in the capacity of Convenor of United Forum of Bank Unions, in particular, his herculean efforts towards successful conclusion of historic Tenth Bipartite Settlement. Thereafter, Com. Murali was felicitated by the Union and others in a grand manner befitting to his stature. Com. M V Murali, in his response, attributed the credit for his entire success to the teamwork and total support of membership in all his endeavours.

Lastly, the Election Committee conducted elections to the positions of Office-bearers of the Union and we are glad to inform that, all the Office-bearers to the Central Committee and Working Committee of the Union were elected unanimously, which marked the satisfactory conclusion of the giant General Body Meeting of our beloved Union befitting the level of the organization.

We place on record our sincere thanks to the entire dedicated membership, the Reception Committee Members and scores of willing volunteers who have put in their magnificent efforts to the scintillating success of the Conference.