



UNITED BANK OF INDIA EMPLOYEES' UNION

REGD. NO.14874

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To All Comrades

Sub: Our role in present circumstances

We are passing through a situation unprecedented in the lives of almost all of us. Public transport including Mail express trains; suburban trains; auto rickshaws; taxis are stopped from operating. All domestic and international flights are cancelled till further announcements. As many as 548 districts in our country have been locked down. Around 30 states/UTs have been placed under complete lockdown. Complete curfew has been declared in some states. During the lockdown, only the essential services will be available. Rest of the people has been advised to remain strictly within their homes. We apprehend that the restrictions will continue for some more time.

This is due to outbreak of a deadly virus named Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19). This has become a pandemic. As per media reports, till 5 AM today, as many as 381752 people have been identified to be infected by Covid-19 in 182 countries throughout the world with 16558 death cases. By now, we all know that the virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person like chain reaction. In order to break the chain of Coronavirus spread which has infected more than 500 people in our country, lockdown has been declared. The situation is worsening everyday with increasing number of infected people. It is alarming for a country like us which is densely populated and with poor health care system. If spread of Covid-19 reaches the stage of community transmission, it will bring disastrous effects for the citizen of our country.

We are part and parcel of the society. By our profession and social outlook, we are considered as advanced section of the society. In the situation we should not be panicked. Rather we must follow all the preventive measures as declared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as well as Govt. of India, Department of Health and Family Welfare. We should also ensure that all our associated people like our members, family members are protected from the deadly virus. We must abide by the restrictions imposed through the lockdown measures.

Banking services are listed as essential services. Hence, during the period of lockdown banking outlets are kept open. We understand the agonies and anxieties of our members and their families when, during the lockdown period, bank employees and officers are attending their duties. We feel proud by the courage and commitment showed by the bank employees during the hours of catastrophe like demonetization. We are proving once more that while serving the nation we are no less than any of the profession. We salute every

bank employee for their valuable contribution to the society even putting their lives to risks.

We are passing through a state of emergency. Bank Employees Federation of India, BEFI since beginning of the outbreak in our country took up the matter with IBA, Union Finance Minister and Hon'ble Prime Minister for providing adequate protection to the bank employees; reducing business hours of the branches; arranging transport during the period of lockdown etc. We came across of some measures taken by the authorities in line with the suggestions of BEFI.

In our bank, we are observing that as a result of suspension of public transport many employees are not being able to reach their branches/offices despite taking best efforts. Though initiatives have been taken by some authorities to provide pull cars to some employees, but alternative transport facilities have not been arranged for most of the employees. We would also like to advice our members, who are not being able to attend office due to lack of transport, to inform respective branch authorities immediately through e-mail or letter. We advice all our members not to take undue risks in the given circumstances. We call upon all CEC members and Regional leadership to maintain contact with the members and extend all sorts of assistance in case of need.

The economy is in total distress since the NDA-I Govt. came into power in 2014. The working class of the country, supported by all sections of people, have been opposing the anti-nation, anti-people policies of the present Govt. We apprehend that the economic situation, particularly unemployment; skyrocketing price rise; agricultural distress, will aggravate further. We all understand that the struggle against Govt. policies will be subdued to a great extent due to this pandemic.

We are all aware that since the announcement of Mega Merger of 10 PSBs into 4, we are opposing the decision by launching agitational programme in various forms including Strike. The Govt. through Gazette Notification, early this month, declared that the Merger will be effective from 1st April 2020. BEFI decided to launch independent programme including Dharna against the Mega Merger during the second half of this month. For obvious reasons, the present situation is not at all conducive to implement the programme. As Kolkata is under lockdown, we are also not been able to open the CEC Office at Head Quarters.

It is quite clear that till the outbreak of Covid-19 is contained the normal functioning of the country can't be restored. Similar situation is for democratic movement as well as movement of the banking sector. The only beneficiary would be the interested quarters, who for their own benefits, are desirous of weakening the democratic movement of the toiling masses. Hence, to fight against Novel Coronavirus is in the interest of the common masses of the country, is a part of our democratic movement. Let us put all our energies in fighting out the menace caused by Covid-19.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF; YOUR COMRADES; FAMILY MEMBERS.

With warm greetings,

Yours comradely,



(Debasish Basu Chaudhury)
General Secretary