



STATE BANK OF HYDERABAD STAFF ASSOCIATION

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ALL THE MEMBERS:

Dear Comrades,

We reproduce hereunder the CIRCULAR NO. 27/76/2014/32 September 23, 2014, issued by our National Organization – AIBEA for information.

With Greetings,

Yours Comradely,

**(JAGDISH M BHAVTHANKAR)
GENERAL SECRETARY**

Dear Comrades,

- **60 Years ago**
- **1st All India Strike by AIBEA on 23rd September, 1954.**

It is a glorious occasion to recall that 60 years ago on 23rd September in 1954, bank employees observed the first All India Strike at the call of AIBEA. That was an entirely different period. Bank employees were getting organized in various States and Banks. There was no system of collective bargaining and Bipartite Settlement. Unions were fighting before Tribunals. The 1st All India Tribunal was Sen Tribunal which gave its Award in August, 1950 but unfortunately at the behest of the bankers, the Award was declared as void on technical grounds. Then the demands were referred to H.V. Divatia Tribunal in July, 1951 but this Tribunal resigned and hence in January, 1952, the issues were referred to Sastry Tribunal. Various Bank-wise Unions along with AIBEA argued before the Tribunal and in April, 1953, the Sastry Award was published.

But this resulted in wage cut & hence AIBEA agitated against it. The matter was referred to Labour Appellate Tribunal (LAT). In April, 1954, LAT gave its Award modifying Sastry Award to some extent in favour of the employees.

The Bankers approached the Government and unfortunately the then Government led by Nehruji succumbed to their pressure and illegally modified the LAT Award in August, 1954.

Employees' hope and faith on the Government were belied. They lost their patience. AIBEA could not tolerate this injustice. AIBEA gave its first call for All India Strike on 23rd September, 1954. The strike was a stupendous success. Following this, AIBEA gave the call for indefinite strike & all these forced the Government to relent.

Thus, the first All India Strike by AIBEA on 23.9.1954 was an epoch making strike and thus began our journey of struggles in our fight for better wages and improvement in service conditions.

60 years later, we look back with pride to our glorious struggles and innumerable achievements.

But we observe that even today there are increasing attacks on our jobs, job security, job permanency, on our wages, service conditions, on our rights and benefits.

60 years ago, AIBEA fought against injustice to bank employees. We have to continue this legacy and commitment to struggle.

With greetings,

Yours Comradely,



C.H. VENKATACHALAM
GENERAL SECRETARY

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