



All India RRB Officers' Federation (AFFILIATED TO AIBOC)

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All Affiliates/ Members
(Please re-circulate)

“SANTI DA” A DOYEN OF TRADE UNION MOVEMENT- IS NO MORE

We reproduce hereunder the text of All India Bank Officers' Confederation Circular No. 01 dated 15th January, 2018.

QUOTE

Com. S.R. Sengupta, General Secretary, AIBPARC, and former General Secretary, AIBOC breathed his last in the early morning of 14th January, 2018, leaving behind his bereaved family, countless followers and admirers. The entire life of Com Sengupta was an eventful history of sacrifice and dedication, hundreds of fond remembrances. It is very difficult to fill up the deep void created by his death.

Universally known as “Santi Da”, Com. Santi Ranjan Sengupta scaled all the heights of trade union movement in the banking industry. He was a doyen of the movement, a champion of the working class in recent times, a man with simple living and high thinking, lifelong crusader against exploitation, a persuasive orator, a skillful negotiator and a relentless fighter for the betterment of the community.

Com. Sengupta created one history after another during his lifetime. He was the General Secretary of Federation of Bank of India Officers' Associations for almost quarter of a century (1978 to 2001). He was the ever-agile Vice President of AICOBOO for a pretty long time. He was the founder President of AIBOC in the foundation conference held in the year 1985 and continued till June 1995 and then General Secretary of the same organisation till December 2001. He was one of the principal architects of UFBU and was unanimously chosen as Convenor of the same. At the time of formation of AIBOC, a value-based trade union for bank officers in India, the names of Com. S.R. Sengupta and Com. R.N. Godbole had been familiarized in the household of bankmen. Both the leaders visited many district headquarters of the country like whirlwind to lay the foundation of an organisation which would pass the test of time and be the champion of the movement in the industry. Shri S.R. Sengupta and R.N. Godbole were pioneers in consolidating officers in Private Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Co-operative Banks and formation of vibrant All India Officers' Organisations in those sectors.

Com. S.R. Sengupta had enormous contributions in the orchestration of the movement of the supervisory cadre of banking industry with the mainstream movement of the working class in India. His lifelong struggle was to protect the public sector character of the banks and he maintained constant liaison with Members of the Parliament of different political parties and made them convinced about the beneficial role of the PSBs in the interest of the country's economy. Such efforts paid rich dividends when the neo-liberal economy started surfacing its ugly head in the early part of nineties.



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When AIBPARC as an organisation of pensioners and retirees was sponsored by AIBOC, a new horizon opened up. Thousands of retirees gathered under the banner of the new organisation and consolidated their position in the industry. In the first general body meeting held in Delhi, Com. S.R. Sengupta was elected as the General Secretary of AIBPARC. In the 2nd General Body held in Kolkata, he was also the unanimous choice for the post of General Secretary which position he held till he breathed his last. He was the symbol of courage, confidence and sacrifice. Retirees throughout the country under his leadership vociferously pronounced their deprivations and exerted pressure on IBA, Govt. of India and the Nation. Com S.R. Sengupta even in his failing health was the guide, the leader and the teacher. His lesson was consolidate, fight and achieve. He and Com. Godbole believed in socialist ideologies and workers Unity. They maintained relationship with Central Trade Unions and after retirement formed Professional Workers Trade Union Congress. The present All India Public Sector and Central Govt. Officers Confederation is similar to that of PWTUC.

Com. S.R. Sengupta was a broad-minded leader who believed in united struggle. He was one of the principal driving forces behind the formation of CBPRO, a consolidation of different organisations of retirees in the banking industry. He believed that total unity could not be achieved overnight. It is an ongoing process which is to be nourished with care to achieve the ultimate goal of creation of a joint platform which could be shared by all similarly placed organisations of the country. His total faith in joint movement would be further exemplified by the creation of an organisation named FUTURE immediately after his retirement from bank's service. The word stands for Foundation of United Trade Union Research and Education (FUTURE).

Comrades, the loss is heart-breaking and the void is enormous. Still we must not forget that we carry the legacy of a fighting spirit and we shall continue to do the same. The best way to show our regards, love and admiration for the departed leader is to adhere to the principles he fought for. As for ourselves, all of us should take a vow that we shall be working extra hours and we shall be walking extra miles to be worthy of being his true successors.

Long Live Com. S.R. Sengupta.

UNQUOTE

ALL AFFILIATES OF AIRBOF MUST CLEAR ALL THEIR DUES TILL DATE TOWARDS SUBSCRIPTION & LEVY TO THE FEDERATION LATEST BY 3RD WEEK OF JANUARY, 2018. PARTICIPATION IN 11TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO CLEARANCE OF DUES BY THE AFFILIATES.

With greetings,

(S.K. Bhattacharjee)
GENERAL SECRETARY