

Telegrams: "GUARDIAN"



State Banks' Staff Union

(CHENNAI CIRCLE)
(Regd No: 883)

(Affiliated to All India State Bank of India Staff Federation)

Fax : 091-044 -2524 35 24
Telephone : 2522 07 31
2522 71 79

Post Box No.1754
STATE BANK BUILDINGS
84, RAJAJI SALAI
CHENNAI - 600 001.

SPECIAL CIRCULAR



Com. R. Asokan The Valiant & Visionary Leader

Date : 30.06.2014

Our Tiruchirappalli Sub-office has earned a pride of place in the chequered history of our Great edifice, State Banks' Staff Union (CC), by its significant and militant role played in protecting the rights of Members and also strengthening the iconic non-political image of our Union. Com.Asokan's contributions during the past 22 years as Deputy General Secretary of Tiruchirappalli Sub-office and towards the growth of our Union are to be etched in golden letters.

He joined the Bank on 07.12.1978 as Clerk-typist at Anaimalai, a village branch, 16 kms away from Pollachi, in Coimbatore District. He was destined to become a leader was evident as early as in June 1979 when he became the Unit Secretary of the branch, immediately after his confirmation in the Bank. Com. Asokan embarked upon the trade union activities with the motto of "SERVICE TO MEMBERS" as his ambition.

He focussed his attention on solving the problems of the Membership and during the 1981 crisis in our Union he stood behind the leaders in protecting the Union from detractors. His unflinching loyalty towards union, his approach and organising skills were noticed by the then leaders in Coimbatore and by Shri.T.V.Loganathan and the legend Late Shri V.Ganesan in Chennai. The Zonal Conference held at Bharuani in 1982 gave him an opportunity to get inspired by the then leaders of our Union and by his selfless service he became the unanimous choice to lead in that area. When an opportunity came his way to involve himself fully in union activities in Coimbatore area when Coimbatore Module was formed in November 1982, he politely declined the offer of Late Shri V.Ganesan to move to Coimbatore and instead he got transferred to Tiruchirappalli Town branch. In January 1984 he was co-opted as Unit Secretary of that branch.

His potential to lead from front gained full recognition when he was co-opted into the Central Committee as Organising Secretary of Tiruchirappalli Sub-office in August 1991 and subsequently as Deputy General Secretary in May 1992. From then on, he was moulded by Late Com. Lakshminipathy, the then Deputy General Secretary of Tiruchirappalli Sub-office, whose valuable advice and guidance Com.Asokan still recalls with pride every day. Com.Lakshminipathy's untimely death in November 1995 burdened him with full responsibility of carrying forward the Tiruchirappalli module. The support and assistance from the other Sub-office functionaries strengthened him to effectively run the affairs of the union. He always fought for the cause of members with courage and conviction and used to sit late-hours also to meet and alleviate their problems.

In February 1997, he was nominated as Council Member of our Federation, AISBISF representing Tiruchirappalli module. During the 17 year period, as Federation Council Member he had attended all the Council meetings and in those meetings he voiced the problems of Membership and he was always a sought-after speaker. Other Circle Council Members used to flock around him and appreciate him for focusing the sufferings of the Members in a candid manner.

He has the distinction of organising maximum number of meetings viz. Members' Meet, Centralised Meetings, Unit Secretaries Meetings, Zonal Conferences and Module Conferences all over Tiruchirappalli Module. All the meetings were attended by Members with zeal and enthusiasm and were given free and unrestricted opportunity to air their grievances. He could build trust amongst the Membership by always willing to share his thoughts and also listen with care, sympathy and concern. With his ability to call each member by his/her name, he developed rapport with the Membership and he was ever willing to help others with compassion and commitment. Retirement of any member or the visits of the General Secretary, President of Circle Union or Federation leaders to Tiruchirappalli were utilised by him to organise Area/Centralised meetings.

Com.Asokan was very close to the Membership and he knew most of them by name. After conclusion of every Members' Meet, large number of Members would surround Com. Asokan and vie with one another to talk to him and to have a photograph with him and the entire Membership would follow him till his departure. They all adored Com.Asokan and these Members do not want to accept the reality of his retirement. Com.Asokan drew everybody who came into contact with him as a magnet.

Com.Asokan was a true friend, philosopher and guide to the multitude of Membership. He was one of the first few persons to be contacted by the Head Quarters at times of crisis and his valuable suggestions were put to effect by Head Quarters.

Com. Asokan is a powerful speaker both in English and Tamil. He will enthral and captivate the audience with eloquence and rapt attention of the Members is the testimony. His speech would make the Members to rise in revolt.

Com. Asokan is a voracious reader especially the Bank Circulars and Instructions and has in-depth knowledge about our Settlements with Bank and IBA. He used to quote from writings of several leading tamil scholars and his favourite quote used to be "u WIjSWm TZI".

The organising capability of Com.Asokan came to the fore when the responsibility of conducting the Federation Conference at Pondicherry in February 2004 was entrusted to Tiruchirappalli Sub-office by our Circle Union. The grand and elaborate arrangements made at that time and the imposing 'pandal' erected at the venue which could accommodate more than 4000 Members became the talk-of-the-town. The colourful procession and the slogans raised by the militant Members reverberated throughout the City of Pondicherry and the then General Secretary, Com.Venugopal Reddy, in the General Secretary's Report of the 32nd General Council aptly recorded the success of the Conference "I place on record with appreciation the magnificent performance of volunteer corps who strained their every nerve under the able and dynamic stewardship of Shri R.Asokan, Deputy General Secretary of Tiruchirappalli Module".

Com. Asokan's role in the Central Committee is highly praise-worthy. As a Central Committee member for a period spanning over 23 years, he has the distinction of working with all the veteran leaders who helped him to nurture his talents and with this experience, he inspired the later entrants with his analytical and skilful arguments in the Central Committee meetings which were learning-experiences for them. He will always call "a Spade a Spade". He will never hesitate to put forth his views in a crystal clear manner and effectively justify his views. Being a disciplined soldier of the Organisation he always abided the final word of the General Secretary.

At times of Central/Circle Bipartite meetings, Com.Asokan's tips on issues confronting the employees used to be depended upon by the Head Quarters. During times of agitations the strategies of Com.Asokan have always borne fruits. His dynamic role in organising and implementing the programmes of agitation especially during the period of K.D.Nayar for which he suffered wage cut and also during Bharat Overseas Bank's 48 days' indefinite strike was commendable.

Com. Asokan has mastered the subject of "Disciplinary Proceedings" under the guidance of Com.H.Ganapathy, our former President and has earned a niche for himself as one of the best Defence Representatives in the Circle. He started defending unfortunate Members from the year 1993 and till his retirement has handled many cases. By his deft handling of the enquiry proceedings and marshalling the facts effectively in the Defence Representative's brief, he has saved many innocent Members who were unwittingly caught in the DPC web. His Defence Brief is considered a treasure trove of the Union.

When the Tsunami struck the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry in December 2004, under the captainship of Com.Asokan, the office bearers and activists immediately rushed relief measures to the affected people in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Pondicherry, Karaikal districts. As a humanitarian gesture, his timely assistance in the devasted areas by supply of food packets and clothes to the needy people, braving all the odds received much accolades.

Com.Asokan is actively involved in social welfare through an Institution, "TRUST" supporting the mentally disabled and another Institution 'SHANTHIVANAM', a home for mentally retarded people, run by a leading Psychiatrist in Tiruchirappalli. He took initiative in providing financial assistance, ambulances, furniture etc. to the inmates through our Members and also our Bank.

Com. Asokan leads a contented life with his wife and a daughter. His daughter, an Engineering graduate is married and lives in Bangalore with her husband who is also an Engineer and they have a four year old son.

Com.Asokan, is retiring from the Bank's service and laying down his office today. His retirement has no doubt created a void in the Union and the remarkable services he rendered for our Members will remain as legacy with us for years to come. His footprints left behind during the course of his long journey will be followed by the younger generation in true spirit.

Our Tiruchirappalli Sub-office is conducting a Module Conference at Hotel Ajanta, Near Central Bus Stand, Tiruchirappalli on 13th July 2014 at 10.00 a.m. in which Com.Asokan will be felicitated in recognition of his services to our Members.

State Banks' Staff Union (CC) salutes Com. Asokan for the meritorious services rendered to our organization and our members and gratefully reminisce his sacrifices during his long tenure of service. On the day of his retirement we wish him a long, prosperous, healthy and happy retired life.

His services to our Union and its Membership might have come to an end but Com. Asokan will continue to render his service to the humanity and carry on his journey. Retirement is a journey, not a destination.

LONG LIVE Com.R.ASOKAN ! LONG LIVE !!

(C.M.BASKARAN)
GENERAL SECRETARY