



## BANK STRIKE

### **Wage Revision: 10 lakh bank employees to go on two-day strike ; UFBU rejects 2 pc hike**

Hyderabad, May 6



**United News of India**  
India's Multi Lingual News Agency

In view of failure of talks held between United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) on the wage revision at Mumbai on Saturday, about 10 lakh bank employees will go on a continuous two-day strike by end of this month.

UFBU, which consists of all the 9 bank unions (AIBEA, AIBOC, NCBE, AIBOA, BEFI, INBEF, INBOC, NOBW, NOBO) took part in the talks.

The strike call is given against the meager offer of wage increase for Bank Employees.

**All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA)** General Secretary CH Venkatachalam told UNI that Bank employees and officers' wage revision is due from November, 1 2017. The Finance Ministry had advised Bank managements and IBA to complete the discussions well in advance and release the revised wages w.e.f. 1-11-2017.

Even though the discussions between Indian Banks' Association and Bank Unions started in May, 2017 and several rounds of discussions have taken place, IBA was not coming forward to make any offer of wage

revision. Hence Unions gave the call for strike on March 15, 2018. Since IBA offered to re-commence the talks, the strike was deferred.

In this background another round of discussions between IBA and Bank Unions took place at Mumbai on Saturday, he said.

Mr Venkatachalam said during the discussions, the IBA offered an increase of 2 per cent over the total wage bill of the Banks as on 31-3-2017. Under the last 10th Bipartite Wage Settlement that was made effective from 1-11-2012, IBA had agreed for a hike of 15 per cent increase over the total wage Bill.

Hence the Unions felt that this offer of IBA was too meager and did not make any basis for further negotiations. In view of this, the Unions outrightly rejected this meager offer of two per cent hike, the top Union leader said.

He said it is regrettable that while the Government has been asking the IBA to conclude the wage revision settlement before 1-11-2017, the IBA has been delaying the same and the present meager offer shows that IBA is not serious and they do not want any meaningful negotiations or to conclude the wage settlement early.

In view of this, it has been decided to take up the issue with Union Finance Ministry immediately for their intervention.

The Unions has given a call to organise massive demonstrations by bank employees all over the country on May 9, 2018, Mr Venkatachalam said, adding that If the Finance Ministry fail to intervene to advice the IBA to make their improved offer, it has been decided to call for a 48 hours continuous strike by end of this month.

It is a matter of shame that while thousands of crores of rupees are written off from the profits towards bad loans of big corporate companies, the genuine demands of bank employees are being denied in this fashion, the AIBEA General Secretary said.

**UFBU's CALL**



**HOLD**

**MASSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS  
BEFORE ALL BANK BRANCHES  
ALL OVER THE COUNTRY**

**CENTRALISED DEMONSTRATIONS  
IN MAJOR CITIES & TOWNS**

**ON 8<sup>TH</sup> OR 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2018**

**DURING LUNCH TIME OR AFTER OFFICE HOURS**

**TO OPPOSE**

**IBA's MEAGER OFFER OF 2% HIKE**

**TO DEMAND**

**EXPEDITED, ADEQUATE WAGE REVISION**

**GET READY FOR 48 HOURS CONTINUOUS STRIKE**



**A.I.B.E.A**



# PMO steps into NuPower-Videocon-ICICI Bank controversy

May 6, 2018 **Rediff.com**



## **Prime Minister's Office wants CBI and tax dept to identify the actual beneficiaries of the transactions made in India and abroad.**

The Prime Minister's Office has ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation and the income tax department to probe transactions involving NuPower Renewables, Videocon Industries and other related parties in connection with the Rs 32.5 billion ICICI Bank-Videocon loan case.

The PMO wants the agencies to identify the actual beneficiaries of these transactions made in India and abroad.

This is the first time the PMO has directly stepped into the case, seeking a detailed investigation.

"This ministry is issuing direction for inspection of the books of accounts and papers of NuPower Renewables Pvt Ltd, Supreme Energy Pvt Ltd, Pacific Capital Services Pvt Ltd and Videocon Industries... to reach at the bottom of the nature of the transactions and the issues," the PMO said in a letter sent to the agencies, which have been investigating the matter.

The letter, which cited the sequence of transactions among these companies since 2008, directed the probe agencies to identify the beneficiaries of such transactions, besides identifying the violations of the Companies Act, if any, and action accordingly.

**Business Standard** has reviewed a copy of the note.

According to the letter, issued a week ago, the Registrar of Companies has done a detailed analysis of transactions among the entities mentioned above.

“The sequence of transactions, which was reported widely, has been verified by the RoC from documents filed by the respective companies,” the letter noted.

Citing RoC findings, it said that in 2008, Videocon group chairman Venugopal Dhoot and Deepak Kochhar, husband of ICICI Bank MD & CEO Chanda Kochhar, promoted NuPower Renewables. Dhoot and his associates held a 50 per cent stake in the company and the remaining was held by Deepak Kochhar and Pacific Capital, a company owned by his father and Chanda Kochhar’s brother’s wife, Neelam Advani.

The second company, Supreme Energy, which was owned by Dhoot, became a 94.99 per cent shareholder in NuPower by March 2010 following transfer of shareholding from Dhoot to Kochhar and subsequently from Kochhar and his Pacific Capital to SEPL.

Kochhar held a 4.99 per cent stake in NuPower then. The same year, Dhoot transferred his entire shareholding in SEPL to his associate Mahesh Chandra Pungalia, who transferred his shareholding in 2012 and 2013 to Pinnacle Energy, a trust where Deepak Kochhar is managing trustee.

The letter further said that according to the annual returns filed for 2017, Deepak Kochhar held an aggregate of 43.4 per cent shares in NuPower, both as direct holding and through SEPL and Pinnacle Energy. Mauritius-based DH Renewable Holdings holds 54.99 per cent.

There were frequent changes in the shareholding pattern in these companies, resulting in the exit of Dhoot and exclusive control of Deepak Kochhar in his own name or through his companies/trusts. Also, there were investments in convertible securities and allegations of conflicting transactions, the PMO observed.

Citing the limitations of the RoC, it said the matter was beyond the scope of the RoC enquiry, which entails calling for information/explanation from the respective companies.

# Deepak Kochhar's NuPower in fresh controversy

April 27, 2018 Rediff.com

## **Shareholder advisory companies are raising eyebrows at the ICICI Bank board not being aware of Firstland's investment in NuPower**

Firstland Holdings, a company based in Mauritius owned by the Kanodia family, did not make any return on its investment in the cumulative convertible preference shares (CCPS) that it made in NuPower Renewables, which it held for over two years.

Under the original resolution, Kanodias' investment would have resulted in 49 per cent stake in NuPower, which it relinquished in favour of DH Renewables Holding, the company that bought the CCPS from Firstland.

NuPower Renewables had received Rs 325 crore infusion by way of CCPS from Firstland Holdings in 2011 and in 2012.

Firstland, part of the Matix Group run by Yogendra Kanodia and son Nishant, sold the CCPS to another Mauritius-based entity DH Renewables, a subsidiary of Accion Diversified Strategies Fund, based in Cayman Island for Rs 325 crore.

"It was a no profit, no loss exit from NuPower and the money received from Accion Diversified Strategies Fund was then invested in a fertiliser plant in Bengal," said a source close to the development.

Firstland's CCPS were to be converted into equity shares of the company.

"Post-conversion of all the CCPS into equity shares of the company, the investor will hold equity shares representing 49 per cent of the share capital of the company calculated on a fully diluted basis," the original resolution had said.

Kanodias received neither dividend nor capital gains on its NuPower investment.

The original resolution on the CCPS did not provide any details on dividend payments.

Nishant is Essar group promoter Ravi Ruia's son-in-law.

The antecedents of DH Renewables and Accion Diversified Strategies Fund are not known and the Indian income tax department has sent letters to Mauritius government and to Cayman Island authorities seeking more information on the fund.

While raising funds from Axis Bank and Central Bank of India, NuPower Renewables had said Accion was a private equity fund with \$250 million corpus.

DH Renewables also put in additional funds of Rs 128 crore in NuPower and after the conversion of the CCPS it acquired from Firstland; the fund owned 55 per cent stake in NuPower Renewables in March 2017, and the next-biggest shareholder was Deepak Kochhar.

While ICICI Bank did not give funds to Kanodia-owned companies, the bank did lend funds to Essar group's foreign subsidiary in Minnesota United States which has now turned into a non-performing asset (NPA).

ICICI Bank was among the seven banks - mainly foreign banks, which had lent funds to Essar Minnesota.

Meanwhile, the ICICI Bank board, consisting bank executives, independent directors and nominees from the government and Life Insurance Corporation of India, was not aware of Firstland's investment in NuPower.

An ICICI Bank source said the Kanodia family was not a borrower of ICICI Bank, and hence the bank's board was not informed as the conflict of interest guidelines were not applicable.

Shareholder advisory companies are raising eyebrows at the ICICI Bank board not being aware of Firstland's investment.

"No party has denied that there wasn't any connection between the borrowers - Essar, Videocon group, and NuPower. The conflict of interest seems to be apparent," said Shriram Subramanian, founder and managing director, InGovern Research Services, a shareholder advisory.

NuPower Renewables is owned by Deepak Kochhar, husband of ICICI Bank CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar.

NuPower made news after the Central Bureau of Investigation filed a preliminary enquiry against the company and Videocon group that the latter gave a Rs 64 crore loan to NuPower via a subsidiary.

ICICI Bank board, Nupower and Videocon have denied any wrongdoing.

Emails to NuPower and Kanodias sent on Wednesday did not elicit any response. An Essar group spokesperson declined to comment.

## **Fearing job losses, traders plan to fight Walmart-Flipkart merger**

The \$500-billion American retail giant has always been a cause of concern for local businesses including mom and pop stores as they feared job losses after Walmart's entry

Karan Choudhury & Subhayan Chakraborty | New Delhi May 5, 2018



With the biggest retail chain of the world, Walmart, just a few steps away from being the biggest investor and virtual owner of e-commerce major Flipkart, many home-grown trader unions, seller associations and retailers have begun voicing their protest. They are not just approaching officials in the finance and commerce ministries, but are also planning to knock the doors of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), so that the deal can be blocked.

Traders argue that the proposed deal between Walmart and Flipkart could be a violation of foreign direct investment (FDI) norms. There's a looming threat of competition getting hurt, making them consult the anti-trust body.

"It's really unfortunate that even after having a clear FDI policy, multinationals are finding an escape route, whether it is in retail or e-commerce. Walmart, after failing to enter India in the retail sector through FDI, has chosen the e-commerce route, which will be quite harmful for the trading community," said Praveen Khandelwal, secretary general, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). If the government and the CCI are not able to help, Khandelwal would want to move court.

The \$500-billion American retail giant has always been a cause of concern for local businesses including mom and pop stores as they feared job losses after Walmart's entry.

Walmart set up its wholesale or cash and carry business in India through a joint venture with Bharti Enterprises in 2007, but it hasn't been able to start a multi-brand operation so far due to policy hurdles. It also broke off with its JV partner Bharti in 2013.

#### ADVERTISING

Sellers, especially the smaller ones, on Flipkart are also planning to go to court as they fear that Walmart could bring multiple private labels in India and flood the e-commerce platform with its own products. That would take away business from the sellers, one of them said.

In fact, many of the sellers want assurance that Flipkart's algorithm would promote their products equally after the deal with Walmart.

According to the spokesperson of the All India Online Vendors' Association (AIOVA), which has 3,500 sellers on large platforms like Flipkart and Amazon, the sellers' community has received no communication or update so far on the deal talks between Walmart and Flipkart.

“There has been no communication from Flipkart or other parties involved in the matter. While we understand that the deal discussions are private, it leaves us in the dark as to what is the future for us on the platform. We want to get clarity on the way forward as we also need to plan accordingly,” said the AIOVA spokesperson.

“We are studying the situation and will take appropriate action, including the legal route, if necessary,” the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, the government does not see any violation in the proposed deal.

“A foreign entity making inroads into a sector, which is still in many ways nascent in India, is significant,” an official at the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) said. The deal is not likely to be under government scrutiny, he said. Subsequently, the developments may be supervised by a potential regulator in the e-commerce sector.

An inter-ministerial think tank is currently in the process of preparing a framework for an e-commerce policy within the next six months.

<b>AIBEA THIS DAY      MAY 6</b>	
1951	First Conference of Bank of India Staff Union meets at Calcutta.
1968	Parliament Select Committee submits report on 36 AD, 54 AA (Social Control Bill)
1977	Com. J C Hathi, Former General Secretary, Gujarat Bank Employees Union passes away.
1996	Central Committee meets at Hyderabad.



## **ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION**

**Central Office: PRABHAT NIVAS**

**Singapore Plaza, 164, Linghi Chetty Street, Chennai-600001**

**Phone: 2535 1522 Fax: 2535 8853, 4500 2191**

**e mail ~ chv.aibea@gmail.com**

**Web: www.aibea.in**