

UNITED FORUM OF BANK UNIONS

(AIBEA – AIBOC – NCBE – AIBOA – BEFI – INBEF – INBOC)

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PRESS RELEASE:

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UFBU PROTESTS AGAINST GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO SELL IDBI BANK TO PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTOR EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS OBSERVE PROTEST BADGE WEARING

On 14th October, 2026 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs of the Government of India gave its approval to the proposal to sell 60% of the share-holding of the Government and LIC in IDBI Bank to a private investor, Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd. from Canada. Thus, IDBI Bank, in which at present Government and LIC hold 94% of the equity capital, will now become a foreign Bank.

Assurance in Parliament: Earlier in 2003 when IDBI converted as a deemed banking company, Government assured the Parliament on 8-12-2003 – (BJP's then Finance Minister Shri. Jaswant Singh gave the assurance on the floor of the Lok Sabha) that at any point of time, the Government shall hold not less than 51% of the shares. Now the Government has violated this assurance.

Public savings: Total Public Deposits in the Bank today is around Rs. 3,50,000 crores. Bank earned net profit of Rs. 5600 crores, Rs. 7500 crores and Rs. 9500 crores in the last three years (total of Rs. 22,600 crores in 3 years). Thus, a performing and profit making Bank is being sold away.

Reservation Policy will end: Because, Government and LIC hold 94% of the shares and hence the owners of IDBI Bank, now the Bank is implementing the Reservation Policy for SC/ST/OBC/Ex-servicemen, etc in the recruitments, promotions, etc. If the Bank will become a private foreign bank, this Reservation Policy will not be implemented.

Selling the Bank is selling the public savings: Government may call it as strategic restructuring, strategic disinvestment, etc. But it is nothing but sale of an important Bank to a foreign investor. It is nothing

but handing over the huge savings of the people (Rs. 3,50,000 crores) to a foreign investor.

Is it Atmanirbhar? It is not only privatisation, rather it is foreignisation. The Cabinet has decided to sell 60% of the share of the Bank to an investor from Canada. Government talks about Atmanirbhar but this important Bank with huge public savings is being sold to a foreign investor.

This is totally unwarranted and undesirable. We strongly oppose the same. We demand the roll back of this decision by the Government.

Protest programme:

To express our concern and protest against this decision to sell IDBI Bank to a foreign investor, bank employees and officers under the banner of United Forum of Bank Unions belonging to AIBEA, AIBOC, NCBE, AIBOA, BEFI, INBEF and INBOC observed Black Badge Wearing programme today.

Looking to developments, further programmes will be decided.



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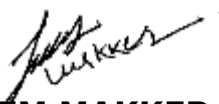
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