

Following news published in Business Recorder on December 24, 2016:

SBP governor urged to grant 100 percent pension commutation

Recorder Report

PESHAWAR: Mohammad Riaz, a former Treasury Officer, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) BSC Peshawar has appealed the Governor SBP Mohammad Ashraf Wathra for doing justice in granting 100 percent pension commutation to him. Mohammad Riaz joined SBP in May 1975 and during his 39 years long career performed his duties with honesty and dedication.

Talking to this scribe, he said that though his service was due till 22 May 2014, but due to the negative attitude of his superiors he was forced to retire on August 30, 2013 and made documentation for 100% commutation. But, due to adverse marking in annual confidential report (ACR) my name was recommended for 50% commutation.

He complained that his reporting officer had finalized his annual report without providing him the opportunity to be heard and inflicted heavy financial losses on him. Furthermore, the additional tax deducted from his salary of the July 2013 was also not returned to him while his appeals to the bank authorities in this regard have also went to the deaf ears. The aggrieved retired official said that the reporting officer has mentioned unsatisfactory performance to deprive me of my rights irrespective of the fact that during my 39 years long service no major penalty was imposed on me. Furthermore, the reporting officer has even stamped his signature in wrong place and column reserved for the concerned employee.

Behavioral performance has 50% in PER Form of the employee, out of which he was given 30 marks. In this connection, the concerned retired SBP employee had also approached the office of Federal Ombudsman, which returned his application with regret that his problem was out of their ambit. He appealed the Governor State Bank of Pakistan for doing justice with him by granting 100% pension commutation to him.

SBP's Clarification: 27.01.2017

This apropos to the news item published in Daily Business Recorder dated 24-12-2016 regarding the above subject in terms of which Mr. Muhammad Riaz, ex- Treasury Officer of State Bank of Pakistan Banking Services Corporation (Bank) Peshawar has appealed to Governor SBP regarding grant of 100% commutation, up-gradation of PMS rating, refund of Income Tax etc. The facts are that the Bank offers to its retiring employees commutation upto 50% of gross pension at the time of retirement and monthly pension OR 100% commutation of gross pension as full and final settlement. The ex-employee had opted for commutation up to 50% of gross pension and monthly pension on early retirement at his freewill, without prejudice and any coercion. As per Bank's policy and instructions, the

options were final and irrevocable. He received all of his post retirement benefits and has been receiving his monthly pension regularly. It is added that marks awarded in performance evaluation reports have no bearing on the pension commutation option exercised by an employee.

The annual reports of the ex-employee were rated/ categorized on the basis of performance shown by him during the reporting year.

Jurisdiction of adjustment of excess income tax deducted from the employees rests with Chief Commissioner Income Tax; all ex-employees were advised to submit their income tax return under section 114/ 120 of Income Tax Ordinance 2001 in order to get the refund/ adjustment.

His all appeals/ Legal Notice/ letters addressed to the Bank's authorities were considered and replied. Hon'ble Wafaqi Mohtasib has closed Mr. Riaz's case.