

Working Hours of SBI

2202. PROF. I.G. SANADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether office timings in the branches of the State Bank of India, Local Head Office, New Delhi are from 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.;

(b) whether many award staff in the SBI branches do not sit after banking hours;

(c) whether audit team from the State Bank Central Office, Bombay, while inspecting the SBI; Overseas Branch, New Delhi, have clearly pointed out about this drawback in their audit report and have issued strict instructions for enforcing discipline; and

(d) if so, the steps management has taken to implement the same in all the branches of SBI, whether the management is finding it difficult to enforce because of the union's resistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) According to State Bank of India (SBI), the office timings of award staff (clerical) working at various branches in Delhi are 9.45 A.M. to 4.45 P.M. However, for administrative offices, the office timings are 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.

(b) Punctuality of office hours is generally being observed.

(c) and (d) The Audit team from SBI, Central Office, Bombay had observed that the punctuality and attendance needs improvement. The Management of the concerned branch has taken corrective

measures to ensure compliance of office timings. There is no resistance from award staff union to the observance of Office timings.

Opening of new Branches of Commercial Banks during Eighth Plan period

2203. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for opening of the branches of different commercial banks in the country during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) the State-wise, bank-wise year-wise details of achievements made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) Under the extant policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it is left to the judgement of commercial banks to open branches, after assessing the need therefor. The proposals for opening of the branches identified by the banks at centres/villages, which are recommended by State Governments are considered by the RBI on merits. In view of the freedom given to banks, no target has been fixed for branch expansion programme. Further, banks are allowed to open service branches and specialised branches namely, Industrial Finance, Overseas, NRI and SIB/SSI branches without the prior approval of RBI.

(b) The State-wise, bank-wise and year-wise details of bank branches as on 31.3.1992, 31.3.1993, 31.3.1994 and 31.3.1995 are given in the enclosed statements I and II.

Statement—I

Bank-wise number of branches in the country as at the end of March 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995

Bank	March 1992	March 1993	March 1994	March 1995
State Bank of India	8563	8632	8415	8748
Associated Bank of SBI	3752	3800	3890	3982
Allahabad Bank	1793	1805	1827	1840
Andhra Bank	948	957	967	970
Bank of Baroda	2285	2310	2375	2391
Bank of India	2323	2340	2370	2430
Bank of Maharashtra	1120	1124	1131	1131
Canara Bank	2031	2044	2091	2120
Central Bank of India	2998	3021	3151	3061
Corporation Bank	441	445	456	482
Dena Bank	1084	1092	1102	1087
Indian Bank	1358	1361	1386	1412
Indian Overseas Bank	1293	1300	1326	1332
New Bank of India	592	593	0	0
Oriental Bank of Commerce	533	537	576	604
Punjab and Sind Bank	675	682	683	688
Punjab National Bank	3006	3041	3684	3693
Syndicate Bank	1548	1553	1559	1559
UCO Bank	1779	1779	1785	1795
Union Bank of India	1843	1854	1886	1911
United Bank of India	1309	1320	1331	1330
Vijaya Bank	722	730	770	787
Other Scheduled				
Commercial Banks	3820	3849	3952	4034
Regional Rural Banks	14525	14526	14526	14519
Foreign Banks	139	141	143	151
Non-Scheduled & Commercial banks	48	48	48	33

Statement—II

State-wise number of bank branches as at the end of March, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995

State	March 1992	March 1993	March 1994	March 1995
Andhra Pradesh	4620	4650	4732	4784
Arunachal Pradesh	68	68	68	68
Assam	1218	1219	1223	1225
Bihar	4862	4876	4902	4911
Goa	256	258	262	268
Gujarat	3374	3396	3444	3470
Haryana	1269	1279	1310	1335
Himachal Pradesh	735	738	753	756
Jammu & Kashmir	783	786	785	787

State	March 1992	March 1993	March 1994	March 1995
Karnataka	4281	4307	4344	4381
Kerala	2842	2863	2939	3009
Madhya Pradesh	4358	4384	4416	4423
Maharashtra	5596	5626	5691	5745
Manipur	85	85	85	86
Meghalaya	173	174	178	179
Mizoram	75	75	76	78
Nagaland	70	70	71	71
Orissa	2098	2112	2135	2145
Punjab	2140	2159	2206	2236
Rajasthan	3058	3079	3130	3156
Sikkim	29	33	40	42
Tamil Nadu	4299	4341	4414	4465
Tripura	178	179	181	181
Uttar Pradesh	8499	8538	8601	8620
West Bengal	4208	4220	4250	4262
Andaman & Nicobar Island	26	26	29	30
Chandigarh	19	112	115	120
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7	7	7	7
Daman & Diu	10	10	10	11
Delhi	1125	1136	1153	1172
Lakshadweep	8	8	8	8
Pondicherry	69	70	72	72

Export of Cotton

2204. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers and cooperatives of Gujarat and Maharashtra have been urging the Central Government to allow export of five lakh bales of cotton in order to arrest the sliding prices which are adversely affecting the interest of cotton growers;

(b) what is the quantity of cotton purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India at the minimum support prices during this year so far;

(c) whether CCI is reluctant to undertake such an operation, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government have taken so far for the lifting of restrictions on the sale and export of cotton and

safeguarding the interests of the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Requests have been received from Maharashtra and Gujarat for allowing export of cotton.

(b) and (c) Ruling market prices of kapas during the current season being much higher than support prices, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has had no occasion so far to undertake cotton procurement at Minimum Support Prices, it has, however, been purchasing some cotton at market prices, and has kept itself ready to undertake price support operations should such an exigency arise.

(d) There is no restriction on sale of cotton. Export of cotton is allowed by the Government after assessment of the cotton supply position and domestic demand, and the likely surplus available.