

(b) State Bank of India historically had different service conditions compared to other banks. When salary structure of other banks got rationalized in 1st Bi-partite Settlement of 19.10.1966, the State Bank of India was not a party to the said settlement. Therefore, some differences remained in the service conditions of Nationalized Banks with that of State Bank of India. Subsequently, the service conditions of Nationalized Banks were extended to employees of Regional Rural Banks in the year 1991. However, pension scheme is not extended to them.

(c) As of today, no strike call is pending in the Banking Industry except the notice given by the six constituents of United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an apex body of Employee Unions of Public Sector Bank dated 22nd June, 2009 for a day's strike on 6th July, 2009 against the proposed merger of State Bank of Indore with State Bank of India.

(d) Wage Negotiations are under way between United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA). Issues such as Compassionate Appointment, another option for pension etc. are also being discussed between IBA and UFBU.

Unlawful financial business

301. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that naxalites in Bihar and adjoining States have set up banks capitalizing on money from robberies, kidnapping etc. and loaned out the same at lower rates of interests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to stop this unlawful and unregulated financial business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Inflation and rise in retail price

302. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retail prices of sugar, tea, pulses, cereals etc. have gone up steeply during the last few months when the wholesale price index-based inflation was going down nearing zero level;

(b) if so, the comparative retail prices of main agricultural/food products since January 2009 and wholesale price index month-wise; and

(c) what are the reasons for variation in the prices during these months?