

Pension scheme for Gramin Bank employees

74. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether long term settlement for the employees of Banking sector including Gramin Banks has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that in banking sector certain percentage of increased salary of Bank Employees are deducted for pension fund, however same deduction of salary would be effective for Gramin Bank Employees and officer and Officers and Employees of State Bank of India (SBI) when they are not getting any benefit of the pension scheme; and

(d) whether there is no separate pension scheme for Gramin Bank Officers and Employees whereas pension in SBI was introduced many years before?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (c) 9th Bipartite Wage Negotiations for salary/wage revision and other service conditions including retiral benefits was concluded on 27.11.2009 between Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) by signing the minutes of discussions. The salient features are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) employees and officers are governed under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952. The superannuation benefits are admissible as per the provisions of this Act. As per this Act, the RRB employees and officers contribute 12% of their Pay and Dearness Allowance to Provident Fund with an equal amount of contribution by the Banks upto a ceiling of Pay and Dearness Allowance of Rs. 6500/-. As per the National Industrial Tribunal (NIT) award and the recommendations made by the Equation Committee, the employees and officers of RRBs are to be governed under the Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952, until they are exempted from the purview of the Act.

Statement

Statement features of 9th Bipartite Wage Negotiations between IBA and UFBU

- (i) The revision envisages wage increase amounting to estimated cost of Rs. 4816 crores representing 17.5% increase in the establishment expenses over the expenses for the year ended 31st March, 2007.
- (ii) The additional cost of pension on account of wage revision was calculated as 26% of the Pay. The additional load over and above the statutory contribution of 10% of the banks in the Provident Fund will be shared equally between the banks and the employees above 10% will be apportioned from the total wage increase of Rs. 4816 crore.

- (iii) All employees in the service of bank as on date of settlement to be signed on the basis of the minutes and who have not opted for pension will be given one more option for joining the pension scheme. Actuarial exercise carried out for considering this had estimated the funding gap after adjusting the Provident Fund contribution of eligible employees at Rs. 6001.80 crores. 30% of this will be provided by the employees out of arrears of wage revision and the rest will be funded by the banks.
- (iv) A similar option would be given to eligible retired employees who had not opted for pension earlier to join the pension scheme. Those who opt will have to refund the bank's contribution to provident fund with interest received by them at the time of retirement and also contribute to the pension fund their share of 30% of the funding gap of Rs. 3116.50 crore.
- (v) A defined contributory retirement benefit scheme as governed by the "contributory pension scheme introduced for employees of Central Government with effect from 1.1.2004" will be introduced for workmen/officers joining the services of banks on or after 1.4.2010. There shall be no separate contributory provident fund in respect of these workmen/officers.

Setting up of health portal

75. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry had outlined a plan to strengthen delivery of healthcare facilities in the country by setting up health portal that will store and disseminate all necessary information pertaining to health services;
- (b) if so, whether experts from Confederation of Indian Industry, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and organizations from private sector will work under Adviser to PM on innovation, IT and infrastructure;
- (c) whether this portal will include the details of every disease and treatment; and
- (d) if so, to what extent portal's operations have succeeded in running health services for all?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a), (c) and (d) The official website of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is at the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) <http://mohfw.nic.in> and disseminates information and links related to the Ministry's initiatives and programmes like National Rural Health Mission, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme etc. Strengthening of the website and its contents are taken up as and when required. It also has a link to HEALTHY-INDIA WEBSITE maintained by Public Health Foundation of India which provides information on healthy life style.

(b) The National Informatics Centre under the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has intimated that they have no information in this regard.