

Protection to SC/ST association office bearers in banking sector

2459. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities provided to the recognized Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) Welfare Association in the Banking Sectors; and

(b) whether the office bearers of above associations are not given protection like their counter part of General Category trade union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) As reported by the Bank/Financial Institutions, they have provided certain facilities to the SC/ST Welfare Associations including Office Accommodation, Telephones, Computer with Printer, Furniture, Fixtures and Check off facility. They also attend Quarterly Meetings for redressal of their grievances. SC/ST office bearers are nominated for Training/Workshop on Reservation Policy. However, as a welfare measure, representatives of Welfare Associations of the Banks/FIs are given duty leave for attending Official Meetings, reimbursement of traveling, boarding/lodging and paid Diem Allowance etc. In some Banks, two/three top office bearers of Welfare Associations are also exempted from general/rotational transfers as a good gesture.

(b) As per Trade Union Act, the office bearers of the General Category Trade Unions Formed on non-caste basis are extended certain protections. As SC/ST Welfare Associations are basically formed on caste criteria and are not registered under Trade Union Act, they are not necessarily a party to bilateral negotiations that normally the managements hold with the Trade Union. Hence, such protections are not extendable to the office bearers of SC/ST Welfare Associations.

Extradition of fraudulent NRI firms

2460. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4187 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th May, 2010 and state:

(a) whether non-performing assets (NPAs) of different public sector banks have reached to alarming level due to fraudulent firms like M/s. K.K. Maratz;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of outstanding amount when the account was declared NPA and the rate of interest on the account and the current outstanding including interests;

(d) whether the Ministry has approached the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Ministry of External Affairs for extradition of fraudulent Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) / firms, particularly M/s. K.K. Maratz;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of other action taken against borrowers and guarantors in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (b) To improve asset quality of the banks and to create a good recovery climate, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Government have taken various steps which, *inter-alia*, include prescribing prudential norms for provisioning and classification of non-performing assets, guidelines for prevention of slippages. Corporate Debt Restructuring and other restructuring schemes, One Time Settlement schemes, enactment of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005, and the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (DRT) Act, 1993 etc. Due to concerted efforts made by the Government and RBI, the Gross NPA to Gross Advances ratio of Public Sector Banks has reduced from 3.71% in 2006 to 2.34% in 2008 and 2.27% in 2010.

(c) to (f) In the case of M/s K.K. Maratz, engaged in export of electronics and textiles, which had obtained credit facilities of Rs.48.10 crore from Bank of India, Osaka Branch, the account went out of order and was classified as non-performing asset (NPA) on 01.01.1998. The account was also treated as fraud as the borrowers and guarantors were absconding from Japan. The matter was reported to police authorities in Japan. Subsequently, the borrowers were traced at Dubai. It was observed that there was no security available against the account and hence, the branch entered into a compromise settlement with the borrowers for Rs. 22.70 crore (equivalent to present outstanding

in the account), which was also agreed by the Management Committee of the Bank and accepted by the borrowers. As the borrowers have accepted the compromise proposal and are ready to pay the outstanding loan amount, the bank has presently with held any further action against the borrowers.

While RBI advises banks from time to time to take adequate care to ensure that the compromise settlements are done in a fair and transparent manner, commercial banks can frame their own Board approved policy for compromise settlement of the Non-Performing Assets based on RBI's extant guidelines. Considering all available ways and means, the bank has tried to ensure to recover its dues to the maximum extent possible at minimum expense/sacrifice on the part of the bank.

Vacancies of Assistant Commissioners of Income-Tax

2461. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of vacancies in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and West Bengal;

(b) what actions are proposed by the Income Tax Department to fill up above vacancies and also vacancies in other cadre; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Department Promotion Committee (DPC) for the post of Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax for the year 2009-10 is overdue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM):

(a) The number of vacancies of Assistant Commissioners of Income Tax/Deputy Commissioners of Income Tax is as under:-

| Name of the Region | Vacancies |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Gujarat | 25 |
| Maharashtra | 79 |
| Karnataka | 21 |
| West Bengal | 61 |

(b) Necessary action to fill up the above vacancies and in other cadres have been taken in accordance with the Government instructions.