

grades (in Group 'A' Services), including and up to the grade of Commissioner of Income Tax, in a particular Region shall not exceed eighteen years in field postings, and twenty-four years in all including periods spent on exempt posts/deputation.

4.3 (i) All Group 'A' officers (subject to 4.4) below, shall be liable for transfer at the commencement of the Financial year, if they have as on 31st December of the preceding year completed in field posting-

(a) 8 years of continuous stay in field posting in the following eight metropolitan stations:

New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai, Kolkata.

4.4 (i) *Explanation:* For the purpose of counting continuous stay at a station:

(b)(ii) in the case of Delhi and Mumbai, continuous stay as stated in 4.3 (i) (a) above shall be 14 years including exempt posts but excluding Deputation and posting in the Board.

(g) and (h) In view of reply to part (d) and (e) above, the question does not arise.

Asset quality stress to SBI

194. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) is witnessing asset quality stress on account of economic slowdown;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the SBI are also causing alarm; and

(d) if so, how SBI is proceeding to recover the same particularly from the corporate defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Asset quality of State Bank of India (SBI) has been under pressure during the recent past on account of global recession coupled with internal factors, which have adversely affected the performance of corporate as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

(c) and (d) Although the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the bank has seen a rising trend, the position is continuously and closely being monitored by a team of top officials of the Bank and there is no cause for alarm. Majority of the problems are structural in nature and are a reflection of the stress in the economy of the country.

The bank is taking legal action under, the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions (RDDBFI) Act, 1993' and 'The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002' and taking recourse to sale of NPAs to Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), compromise with borrowers, declaration of willful defaulters, restructuring of viable problem loans, etc to increase the pace of recovery and manage NPAs.

Circulation of fake currency notes through China

195. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been evidence of fake Indian currency notes being routed from China;

(b) whether China is now being used as the fake currency channel;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Indian agencies have adequate network in China to stem this rot;

(e) the details of various very common routes for the circulation of this fake currency notes;