

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Indian Banks' Association (IBA) *vide* its letter No.HR and IR/CIR/2013-14/589/8764 dated 30.01.2014, in consultation with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, has issued comprehensive uniform guidelines for Pay fixation of Ex-servicemen upon their re-employment in Public Sector Banks (PSBs), including State Bank of India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Government shares in Public Sector Enterprises

2825. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided that Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)/ Government companies will hold upto 75 per cent shares only, if so, the details thereof;

(b) If so, what would be the impact on financial health of PSUs; and

(c) Whether restructuring and pruning of employees in the PSUs are also in the agenda of Government, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) No Sir. However, a proposal to achieve and maintain at least 25% public shareholding by listed Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Do not arise in view of the reply (a) above.

(c) Restructuring is a continuous process in the PSUs and enterprise specific restructuring measures are taken by the concerned Administrative Ministries/Departments and the PSUs. This, *inter-alia*, includes (i) financial restructuring such as conversion of loan into equity, waiver of loan and interest including penal interest, Government guarantee for raising loans, grant of moratorium on payment of interest/loan, (ii) business restructuring, such as, formation of joint ventures, merger with another PSU, modernization and improved marketing strategies, etc. In order to rationalize manpower PSUs have resorted to Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) from time to time. In case of PSUs found unviable and where a decision has been taken to close the unit it is Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) that is introduced. Retrenchment of employees is adopted only as the last resort and in exceptional circumstances.

Irregularities in waiving off agricultural loans

2826. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were serious irregularities taken place in the