

Nation-wide strike by bank employees

*30. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the main demands of nation-wide strike called by bank employees;
- (b) the efforts being made to resolve the contentious issues raised by the United Forum of Bank Unions;
- (c) whether negotiations would be initiated to call off relay strikes in the first week of December throughout the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the loss being incurred by the industry because of the one day strike; and
- (e) whether conciliatory measures would be undertaken to resolve the issues amicably along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The main demand for nation-wide strike called by United Forum of Bank Unions(UFBU) is immediate settlement of wage revision under 10th Bipartite Settlement.

(b) Indian Banks' Association(IBA) and UFBU have undertaken 14 rounds of meetings during the present settlement of wage revision. The Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) also called reconciliation meetings on 5.11.2014 and 10.11.2014 after receiving the strike notice from UFBU.

(c) IBA is open and flexible for discussions to carry the matter forward in order to arrive at an amicable resolution so that the relay strike in the first week of December could be avoided.

(d) It is not possible to quantify the loss being incurred. However, the inconvenience caused to public was minimized with the function of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), online Banking services and other alternative channels.

(e) As per (c) above.

Implementation of One Rank-One Pension policy

*31. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's decision to grant pension to the retired personnel of the Defence Forces as per "One Rank-One Pension (OROP)" formula has since been implemented; if so, the details thereof;

- (b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and
- (c) by when this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) The principle of One Rank One Pension for the Armed Forces has been accepted by the Government. The modalities for implementation were discussed with various stakeholders and are presently under consideration of the Government. It will be implemented once the modalities are approved by the Government.

Direct flight of AI to Toronto

*32. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the past there was a direct flight of Air India (AI) from New Delhi to Toronto;
- (b) if so, the reasons for discontinuing the flight service; and
- (c) whether Government intends to start fresh flights from Ahmedabad or New Delhi to Toronto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India was operating one flight between India and Toronto till May, 2012, as per following details:

Routing	Aircraft	Frequency
Amritsar-Delhi-Toronto and VV	B777-300 ER	Daily

Air India had been incurring losses on its operations to Toronto and incurred a cash deficit of about ₹164 crores for the FY 2011-12 and ₹20 crores for the period April-May, 2012. In view of the losses suffered by Air India, the services to Toronto have been discontinued.

- (c) No, Sir.

Relief packages for weavers and artisans

*33. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any relief package for weavers of the country, including waiving off their loans; if so, the details thereof;