

(b) As per the quarterly estimates of GDP for 2016-17, the growth rate of GDP in the first, second and third quarters of 2016-17 was estimated at 7.2 per cent, 7.4 per cent and 7.0 per cent respectively. The growth rate of the economy for the fourth quarter of 2016-17, implicit in the second advance estimates and quarterly estimates of GDP at constant market prices, released by the CSO, is 7.0 per cent.

(c) The Government of India has taken various initiatives to boost the GDP growth sector which, *inter alia*, include; fillip to manufacturing and infrastructure and concrete measures for transport and power sectors as well as other urban and rural infrastructure. Government has also announced various measures in the Budget 2017-18 to promote growth of the economy which, *inter alia*, include push to infrastructure development by giving infrastructure status to affordable housing, higher allocation to highway construction, focus on coastal connectivity and taking up second phase of Solar Park. The other growth promotion measures include: lower income tax for companies with annual turnover up to ₹ 50 crore; allowing carry-forward of MAT credit up to a period of 15 years instead of 10 years at present; further measures to improve the ease of doing business; the proposed scheme for creating employment in the leather and footwear industries; and, a major push to digital economy. The Budget has also targeted to provide higher agricultural credit and to increase employment significantly.

(d) The industrial and economic growth of a country depends on a number of factors including structural, external, fiscal and monetary factors (which is partly reflected by demonetisation).

Irregularities in sanctioning loans by PSBs

2175. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received by the Government and RBI during the last three years concerning sanction of loans by Public Sector Banks in violation of laid down guidelines;

(b) whether Government and RBI have enquired into the complaints, fixed responsibility and taken suitable penal action, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to inquire into the conduct of nominee Directors of RBI/Ministry on the Bank Boards as well as the CMDs/MDs of Banks who have sanctioned loans in contravention of the laid down guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that some complaints regarding irregularities in sanctioning of loans by Public Sector Banks have been received in RBI. However, no database on the complaints regarding irregularities in sanctioning of loans is collated by RBI.

These complaints are examined on a case to case basis after seeking comments/ explanations and clarifications from the concerned banks. Appropriate action as deemed fit is taken on the findings of the examination of complaints.

Opposition to merger of SBI with Associate Banks

2176. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal of merger of State Bank of India with its five Associate Banks was opposed by Employees Association, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government examined all aspects/pros and cons before deciding for merger of Associate Banks, if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the merger is going to hurt the staff and the small customers; and

(d) if so, the details of measures proposed to be taken to address the challenges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) State Bank of India has informed that while Associations of officers in Associate Banks have not voiced any opposition to merger, some employees unions have objected to loss of identity and possible relocation. Several communications have already gone from top management of State Bank of India to all employees of all the Associate Banks to reassure the employees that their interest will be protected as the pay and allowances offered to the employees / officers of the subsidiary banks shall not be less than the overall pay and allowances that they would have drawn in their bank. All aspects of the merger have been examined in detail before according sanction to the merger proposal.

(c) and (d) No. On the contrary, the merger is expected to benefit the staff of Associate Banks as they would be entitled to an additional superannuation benefit and