

Measures to recover written-off NPAs

390. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of NPAs written-off by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) has increased over the last three years *i.e.* from ₹ 2,67,067 crores in 2014-15 to ₹ 6,41,057 crores in 2016-17;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NPAs written-off by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in the current financial year 2017-18 *i.e.* upto September, 2017 has already aggregated to the tune of ₹ 6,89,806 crores;

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to recover these amounts after writing-off stage; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to arrest this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) and (b) As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data on global operations, public sector banks wrote-off (including through compromise), ₹ 49,018 crore during financial year 2014-15, ₹ 81,683 crore in financial year 2016-17, and ₹ 53,625 crore during financial year 2017-18 up to 30.9.2017.

(c) and (d): As per RBI guidelines and policy approved by Bank Boards, non-performing loans, including, *inter alia*, those in respect of which full provisioning has been made on completion of four years are removed from the balance-sheet of the bank concerned. This is done, *inter alia*, for tax benefit and capital optimisation. Borrowers of such loans continue to be liable for repayment. Recovery of dues takes place on ongoing basis under legal mechanisms which include, *inter alia*, the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, Debts Recovery Tribunals and Lok Adalats.

Regulatory mechanism for crypto currency

391. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted an inter-disciplinary panel to look into legality of crypto currencies and suggest a way forward;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its outcome; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to have a regulatory mechanism for online purchase and sale of crypto currencies in the country?