

- (a) whether recommendations of the Task Force on Direct Tax Code have been made public;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) The recommendations of the Task Force on Direct Tax Code have not been made public.

(b) Not Applicable.

(c) In order to review the existing Income-tax Act, 1961 and to draft a new direct tax law in consonance with the economic needs of the country and to submit report in this regard, the Government had constituted a Task Force *vide* Office Order in F.No. 370149/230/2017 dated 22.11.2017. Subsequently, the Task Force was reconstituted *vide* orders of even number dated 26.11.2018 and 24.06.2019. The Task Force so reconstituted has submitted its report to the Government on 19.08.2019.

The report submitted by the Task Force is currently under the consideration of the Government.

#### **Deprivation of small insured from independent loss assessment**

1041. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the IRDAI is going to deprive the small insured from independent loss assessment by Licensed Surveyor empowering the insurers to settle the losses unilaterally; and
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the said regulation will deprive the small insured (claim value upto ₹75,000) from independent and unbiased loss assessment by licensed surveyors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has informed that as per Regulation 12(3) of IRDAI (Insurance Surveyors and Loss Assessors) Regulations, 2015, a surveyor and loss assessor is required to be appointed by insurer or insured to assess loss above ₹50000/- for motor insurance and

above ₹ 1 lakh for other than motor insurance. These limits were prescribed in 2015. The Regulation provides for review of these limits every three years.

The objective of this Regulation is to ensure that policyholders receive their claims speedily in case of small claims. If the policyholder is not satisfied with the decision of the insurer on the settlement of claim, there is provision to seek redress by approaching the Insurance Ombudsman and other consumer fora or courts

#### **Non-performing assets in PSBs**

1042. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) for the years 2015- 2019, year-wise and bank-wise;

(b) the percentage of these Non-Performing Assets that the Public Sector Banks have waived off for the years 2015-2019, year wise and bank-wise; and

(c) the Total number of Non-Performing Assets in the country for the year 2018-2019 and the percentage of such NPAs that belong to Public Sector Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) and (b) As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s data on global operations, aggregate gross advances of PSBs increased from ₹ 18,19,074 crore as on 31.3.2008 to ₹ 52,15,920 crore as on 31.3.2014. As per RBI inputs, the primary reasons for spurt in stressed assets have been observed to be, *inter-alia*, aggressive lending practices, wilful default/loan frauds/corruption in some cases, and economic slowdown. Asset Quality Review (AQR) initiated in 2015 for clean and fully provisioned bank balance-sheets revealed high incidence of NPAs. As a result of AQR and subsequent transparent recognition by banks, stressed accounts were reclassified as NPAs and expected losses on stressed loans, not provided for earlier under flexibility given to restructured loans, were provided for. Further, all such schemes for restructuring stressed loans were withdrawn. Primarily as a result of transparent recognition of stressed assets as NPAs, gross NPAs of PSBs, as per RBI data on global operations, rose from ₹ 2,79,016 crore as on 31.3.2015, to ₹ 8,95,601 crore as on 31.3.2018, and as a result of Government's strategy of recognition, resolution, recapitalisation and reforms, have since declined to ₹ 7,27,296 crore as on 30.9.2019. Details of bank-wise and year-wise NPAs in PSBs are given in Statement (*See below*).