GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2927
ANSWERED ON- 29/03/2022

GROSS NPAs

2927. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) what is the gross NPAs of Public Sector Banks (PSBs);

(b) what has been the gross NPAs during the past five years; and

(c) what actions are contemplated by Government to bring down the NPAs?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(DR. BHAGWAT KARAD)

(a) to (c): As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, aggregate gross advances of public sector banks (PSBs) increased from Rs. 18,19,074 crore as on 31.3.2008 to Rs. 52,15,920 crore as on 31.3.2014. As per RBI inputs, aggressive lending practices during this period along with wilful default / loan frauds /corruption in some cases, economic slowdown, *etc.*, were observed to be primary reasons for the spurt in the stressed assets. 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. Primarily as a result of transparent recognition of stressed assets, gross NPAs of PSBs rose from Rs. 2,79,016 crore (gross NPA ratio of 4.97%) as on 31.3.2015, to Rs. 5,39,968 crore (gross NPA ratio of 9.27%) as on 31.3.2016, to Rs. 6,84,732 crore (gross NPA ratio of 11.66%) as on 31.3.2017, and further to Rs. 8,95,601 crore (gross NPA ratio of 14.58%) as on 31.3.2018, and as a result of Government's strategy of recognition, resolution, recapitalisation and reforms, have since declined to Rs. 7,39,541 crore (gross NPA ratio of 11.59%) as on 31.3.2019, to Rs. 6,78,317 crore (gross NPA ratio of 10.25%) as on 31.3.2020, to Rs. 6,16,616 crore (gross NPA ratio of 9.11%) as on 31.3.2021 and further to Rs. 5,59,081 crore (GNPA ratio of 7.88%) as on 31.12.2021.

Comprehensive steps have been taken by the Government to bring down the NPAs. The steps taken include, *inter alia*, the following:

(1) Change in credit culture has been effected, with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) fundamentally changing the creditor-borrower relationship, taking away control of the defaulting company from promoters/owners, and debarring wilful defaulters from the resolution process. To make the process more stringent,

personal guarantor to corporate debtor has also been brought under the ambit of IBC. Under IBC, resolution plans have been approved in 457 cases up to December 2021, with Rs. 2.50 lakh crore amount realisable by financial creditors.

(2) The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 has been amended to make it more effective, with provision for three months' imprisonment in case the borrower does not provide asset details, and for the lender to get possession of mortgaged property within 30 days.

(3) As per RBI instructions, wilful defaulters are not sanctioned any additional facilities by banks or financial institutions, and their unit is debarred from floating new ventures for five years.

(4) Wilful defaulters and companies with wilful defaulters as promoters/directors have been debarred from accessing capital markets to raise funds, *vide* Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2016.

(5) Jurisdiction of Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRTs) was increased from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh to enable the DRTs to focus on high value cases resulting in higher recovery for the banks and financial institutions. Six new DRTs have also been established to expedite recovery.

(6) Key reforms have been instituted as part of the Public Sector Banks Reforms Agenda, including, *inter alia*, the following:

- (i) Stressed Asset Management Verticals were set up in banks for focused slippage prevention, recovery arrangement and time-bound action in respect of large-value stressed assets.
- (ii) Board-approved loan policies of PSBs now mandate tying up necessary clearances/approvals and linkages before disbursement, scrutiny of group balance-sheet and ring-fencing of cash flows, non-fund and tail risk appraisal in project financing.
- (iii) Use of third-party data sources for comprehensive due diligence across data sources has been instituted, thus mitigating risk on account of misrepresentation and fraud.
- (iv) Monitoring has been strictly segregated from sanctioning roles in high-value loans, and specialised monitoring agencies combining financial and domain knowledge have been deployed for effective monitoring of loans above Rs. 250 crore.
- (v) To ensure timely and better realisation in one-time settlements (OTSs), end-to-end OTS platforms have been set up in PSBs.

*****