

(a) the number of cases pending in Supreme Court, where nationalised banks have appealed against orders of various High Courts.

(b) the steps being taken to formulate guidelines so as to ensure that nationalised banks do not increase litigation in Courts;

(c) whether it is a fact that banks go to court merely to delay resolution of cases and issues;

(d) the reasons for banks not trying to reconcile issues so as to avoid courts;

(e) the measures being considered by Government to restrict banks appealing High Court decisions, so as reduce burden on Courts; and

(f) whether any such guidelines exist for Income Tax Department ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (f). Banks take recourse to law courts only when necessary and normally after exhausting all remedies for recovery of their advances/enforcement of their rights, including consideration of proposals for settlements/compromises.

The Government have advised all public enterprises, including public sector banks that all disputes between a Government Department and public sector enterprise and between one public sector enterprise and another should be resolved amicably by mutual consultation or through the good offices of empowered agencies of the Government or through arbitration and recourse to litigation should be avoided.

The Income Tax Department is also covered by these guidelines.

#### Financing of Bank Trade Unions by Nationalised Banks

8542. SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is the practice of nationalised banks to finance trade union organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, how the management of Bank of Baroda has been financing the union named All India Bank of Baroda Employees Unions, and

(d) the action Government propose to take against such organisations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), it is not the practice of nationalised banks to finance their trade union organisations.

(c) and (d). In accordance with the Statutes governing Public Sector Banks and in accordance with the practices and usages customary among banks, information relating to or affairs of constituents cannot be divulged. As such, information sought cannot be divulged.

#### Loan to Non-Resident Indian for Ship Purchase by State Bank of India's Branch Singapore

8543. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Bank of India's branch at Singapore had backed any shipping purchases by a non-resident Indian which had subsequently led to considerable losses to the bank's branch there;

(b) if so, the steps taken to recover the loan given for the purchase of the ship; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that foreign branches of Indian banks are more careful in backing speculative deals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). State Bank of India, in syndication with