

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:144

ANSWERED ON:17.10.2008

BANK STRIKE

Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Manoj Dr. K.S.

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the bank employees in the country observed two day's strike in September, 2008;
- (b) if so,the reasons therefor and the demands of striking employees,if any;
- (c) the action taken! proposed to be taken by the Government on the demands of the employees;
- (d) the loss of business due to this strike and extent to which inconvenience caused to the common people;and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such inconvenience in future?

**Answer**

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance(Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)

(a)&(b): On a call given by the United Forum of Bank Unions(UFBU),the employees of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) were on strike for two days on 24th and 25th September,2008 opposing the privatization of PSBs,recommendations of Raghuram Rajan Committee and Anwarul Hoda Committee, merger of PSBs; and amendment to the Banking Regulation Act,and in support of their demands namely expeditious implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated 25.2.2008 between UFBU and Indian Banks Association (IBA) relating to the issues like second option for pension, appointments on compassionate grounds,wage revision,to stop outsourcing in all normal jobs and services and the filling up of unfilled vacancies in banks.

(c): No directive has been issued by the Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on consolidation of the banks, as of now and there is no proposal to transfer the control and management of PSBs to the private sector.Further,a view is yet to be taken on the Reports of the Raghuram Rajan and Anwarul Hoda Committees recommendations.The Amendment to the Banking Regulation Act is in accordance with best international practices.Further,IBA has reported that they are in continual dialogue with UFBU on the issues covered in MOD of 25.02.2008.

(d): The loss of business due to strike is not possible to quantify.The inconvenience caused to the public was minimized due to the functioning of 27,000 ATMs spread throughout the country.

(e): As per Section 20 of the Industrial Dispute Act,1947,conciliation proceedings are deemed to commence on the date on which a Notice of strike is received by the Conciliation Officer to resolve the issues and to avert the strike.