

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5823
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2012
DORMANT BANK ACCOUNTS
Kishor Shri Kamal

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds locked in the dormant bank accounts in various public sector banks in the country, bank-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is considering to hand over such funds*to legal heirs of account holders;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government / Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued any directions to the banks for payment of dormant accounts to the person or their heirs; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the banks thereto alongwith the time by which the said directions are likely to be complied with?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) : Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that as on 31st December, 2011, a total amount of around Rs. 2,481.40 crores in 1,12,49,844 accounts is lying as unclaimed deposits with the Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs). The bank group-wise details of such unclaimed deposits are as under:-

Bank Group	Total (No. of Accounts)	Total Unclaimed Deposit (Rs. In Crores)
SBI Group	10,95,278	233.91
Public Sector Banks	86,83,866	1,944.52
Private Sector Banks	14,24,093	233.56
Foreign Banks	46,607	69.41
Total (SCBs)	1,12,49,844	2,481.40

(b) to (e): RBI, vide its circular dated August 22, 2008 and July 01, 2011, directed the banks to play a more pro-active role in finding the whereabouts of the account holders, whose accounts have remained inoperative and has provided detailed guidelines to the banks dealing with inoperative accounts. These circulars are available on the RBI website www.rbi.org.in. Banks have been advised to make an annual review of accounts in which there are no operations for more than one year. Banks have been advised to consider launching a special drive for finding the whereabouts of the customers / legal heirs in respect of existing account which have already been transferred to the separate ledger of 'Inoperative Accounts'. These instructions, inter-alia, include operations in such accounts to be allowed after due-diligence and no charge to be levied for activation of inoperative accounts. Further, RBI has, vide their circular dated 7th February, 2012, advised the banks to display the list of unclaimed deposits / inoperative accounts which are inactive / inoperative for ten years or more on their respective website. The list so displayed on the websites must contain only the names of the account holder(s) and his / her address in respect of unclaimed deposit / inoperative accounts. Banks have been advised to give on the same website, the information on the process of claiming the unclaimed deposit / activating the inoperative account and the necessary forms and documents for claiming the same. The banks have been advised to complete this process by June 30, 2012 and keep their websites updated at regular intervals. Banks have been advised to have adequate operational safe-guards to ensure that the claimants are genuine.