

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2312
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2012
FICTITIOUS OFFERS VIA SMS
Pakkirappa Shri S.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) received any complaints regarding incidents of fraudulent withdrawal of money due to fictitious offers via SMS or e-mail;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, bank-wise ;
- (c) whether the RBI has directed banks to keep a strict vigil on such dubious transactions and expedite action against the offenders ; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the RBI to keep a check on such incidents ?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) : Yes Sir. On several occasions in the past, RBI has cautioned the members of public against falling prey to fictitious offers/lottery winnings/remittance of cheap funds in foreign currency from abroad by so-called foreign entities/individuals or to Indian residents acting as representatives of such entities/individuals.

They were also cautioned against making any remittance towards participation in such schemes/ offers from unknown entities since such remittances are illegal liable to be proceeded against for contravention of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, apart from violations of KYC norms and Anti Money Laundering (AML) standards. Details are available at www.rbi.org,ia The above RBI advise came in the wake of incidents of many Indians falling prey to such tempting offers and losing money.

However, since such incidents of fraudulent withdrawal of money due to fictitious offers via sms or email is not a ground of complaint under the Banking Ombudsman Scheme,2006, no data giving such details are maintained.

(c) and (d): The Reserve Bank of India has alerted the public on several occasions through the print and electronic media regarding such fictitious schemes/offers. They were also advised to bring details of such offers to the notice of local police for booking the culprits.

The Reserve Bank of India has also instructed all Banks to notify their constituents and customers about these fictitious schemes and to give it wide publicity to enable the public to refrain from falling prey to these fraudsters.