

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:128

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013

UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS IN BANKS

Chanabasappa Shri Udasi Shivkumar;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether crores of rupees are lying as unclaimed deposits in various banks of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise and State / UT-wise along with the policy adopted by the banks in this regard;
- (c) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established or proposes to establish 'Depositors Education and Awareness Fund' for the unclaimed funds deposited in the banks and to hand over the management of said fund to an authority;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken / being taken by the Government / RBI in this regard?

**Answer**

FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 128 FOR 13TH DECEMBER, 2013 ASKED BY SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI AND SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI REGARDING UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS IN BANKS.

(a) and (b): The total amount of Unclaimed Deposits (more than 10 years old) lying with all Scheduled Commercial banks (SCBs), as per Form IX submitted by them, at the end of December 31, 2012, is Rs.3652,64,72,711.00. In terms of Section 26 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 every banking company shall, within thirty days after the close of each calendar year, submit a return in the prescribed form and manner to the Reserve Bank of India as at the end of such calendar year of all accounts in India which have not been operated upon for ten years.

The details of bank-wise list of unclaimed deposits with Scheduled Commercial Banks is at Annex.

(c) to (e): Pursuant to the enactment of The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2012, Section 26A has been inserted in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 which, inter alia, empowers the Reserve Bank of India to establish a Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF). DEAF will be credited with the amount to the credit of any account in India with a banking company which has not been operated upon for a period of ten years or any deposit or any amount remaining unclaimed for more than ten years within a period of three months from the expiry of the said period of ten years. DEAF shall be utilised for promotion of depositors' interests and for such other purposes which may be necessary for the promotion of depositors' interests as may be specified by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time. However, the provisions of Section 26A do not prevent a depositor or any other claimant from claiming his deposit or unclaimed amount or operating his account or deposit account after the expiry of the period of ten years and the banking company shall be liable to repay the deposit or amount and claim refund of such amount from DEAF. Reserve Bank of India has not set up the DEAF as the modalities for setting up DEAF are at formative stage.