

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 143
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd FEBRUARY, 2018/13TH MAGHA SAKA, 1939

Scribbled Currency

143. DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

QUESTION

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued any directions verbal or written to all the nationalized banks not to accept scribbled currency from the customers and if so, the details thereof and the reasons behind it along with the remedies for the general public in this regard;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that nationalized banks are not accepting the scribbled currency from the customers by saying orders from RBI including Corporation Bank although scribbled currency is being disbursed through bank ATMs;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and by which authority the customers are being denied by the banks;
- (d) whether the Government has maintained any data regarding such scribbled currencies and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to replace scribbled currencies available with the customers, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action proposed by the Government to solve these acute problems of the general public and against the banks and the progress made so far in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN)**

(a) to (f) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not issued any instruction to bank not to accept scribbled currency from the customers. RBI had issued press releases dated December 31, 2013 and December 14, 2015, clarifying that bank notes with writing/scribbling on them continue to be legal tender. Bank notes with writing on them are treated as soiled notes and can be deposited in bank accounts or exchanged at any bank branch, in accordance to Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund Rules), 2009. As part of the clean note policy, soiled notes received by banks are withdrawn from circulation. It has been reported by RBI that it does not have any data on scribbled currencies.

Further for the awareness of public:

- (i) RBI has advised all the bank branches to display at their branch premises at prominent place, a board indicating the availability of notes exchange facility for information of general public.
- (ii) RBI from time to time issue instructions to banks to organize exchange melas to mop up soiled and mutilated banknotes from circulation.
- (iii) RBI periodically issues Press Releases appealing to the members of public not to inscribe anything on banknotes as it damages the notes and poses difficulty in identifying the features of genuine banknotes.
