

THE BANKING COMPANIES (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER
OF UNDERTAKINGS) AMENDMENT ACT, 1994

No. 37 OF 1994

[3rd June, 1994.]

An Act further to amend the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

Short
title and
com-
mence-
ment.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Amendment Act, 1994.

(2) It shall come into force on such date¹ as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates² may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENTS TO THE BANKING COMPANIES (ACQUISITION
AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) ACT, 1970

Amend-
ment of
section 2.

2. In section 2 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 (hereafter in this Chapter referred to as the Bank Nationalisation Act),—

(i) after clause (f), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(fa) “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made under this Act;”

(ii) after clause (h), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(i) words and expressions used herein and not defined either in this Act or in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 but defined in the Companies Act, 1956 shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Companies Act, 1956.”

¹ 15.7.1994 : vide Notification No. S.O. 528 (E), dated 15.7.1994.
(Except sections 6 and 14)

² 3.4.1995 : vide Notification No. S.O. 288 (E), dated 3.4.1995.
in section 6 and 14)

3. In Chapter II of the Bank Nationalisation Act, for the heading "TRANSFER OF THE UNDERTAKINGS OF EXISTING BANKS", the following heading shall be substituted, namely:—

"TRANSFER OF THE UNDERTAKINGS OF EXISTING BANKS AND SHARE CAPITALS OF THE CORRESPONDING NEW BANKS".

Substitution of new heading for heading of Chapter II.

4. In section 3 of the Bank Nationalisation Act, for sub-sections (2A) and (3), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

Amendment of section 3.

(2A) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the authorised capital of every corresponding new bank shall be one thousand five hundred crores of rupees divided into one hundred fifty crores fully paid-up shares of ten rupees each:

Provided that the Central Government may, after consultation with the Reserve Bank and by notification in the Official Gazette, increase or reduce the authorised capital as it thinks fit, so however that after such increase or reduction, the authorised capital shall not exceed three thousand crores or be less than one thousand five hundred crores, of rupees.

(2B) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), the paid-up capital of every corresponding new bank constituted under sub-section (1) may from time to time be increased by—

(a) such amounts as the Board of Directors of the corresponding new bank may, after consultation with the Reserve Bank and with the previous sanction of the Central Government, transfer from the reserve fund established by such bank to such paid-up capital;

(b) such amounts as the Central Government may, after consultation with the Reserve Bank, contribute to such paid-up capital;

(c) such amounts as the Board of Directors of the corresponding new bank may, after consultation with the Reserve Bank and with the previous sanction of the Central Government, raise by public issue of shares in such manner as may be prescribed, so, however that the Central Government shall, at all times, hold not less than fifty-one per cent. of the paid-up capital of each corresponding new bank.

(2C) The entire paid-up capital of a corresponding new bank, except the paid-up capital raised by public issue under clause (c) of sub-section (2B), shall stand vested in, and allotted to, the Central Government.

(2D) The shares of every corresponding new bank not held by the Central Government shall be freely transferable:

Provided that no individual or company resident outside India or any company incorporated under any law not in force in India or

any branch of such company, whether resident outside India or not, shall at any time hold or acquire by transfer or otherwise shares of the corresponding new bank so that such investment in aggregate exceed the percentage, not being more than twenty per cent., of the paid-up capital, as may be specified by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause, “company” means any body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals.

(2E) No shareholder of the corresponding new bank, other than the Central Government, shall be entitled to exercise voting rights in respect of any shares held by him in excess of one per cent. of the total voting rights of all the shareholders of the corresponding new bank.

(2F) Every corresponding new bank shall keep at its head office a register, in one or more books, of the shareholders (in this Act referred to as the register) and shall enter therein the following particulars:—

(i) the names, addresses and occupations, if any, of the shareholders and a statement of the shares held by each shareholder, distinguishing each share by its denoting number;

(ii) the date on which each person is so entered as a shareholder;

(iii) the date on which any person ceases to be a shareholder; and

(iv) such other particulars as may be prescribed.

(2G) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2F), it shall be lawful for every corresponding new bank to keep the register in computer floppies or diskettes subject to such safeguards as may be prescribed.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, a copy of, or extract from, the register, certified to be a true copy under the hand of an officer of the corresponding new bank authorised in this behalf by it, shall, in all legal proceedings, be admissible in evidence.

1 of 1872.

5. After section 3 of the Bank Nationalisation Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“3A. Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2F) of section 3, no notice of any trust, express, implied or constructive, shall be entered on the register, or be receivable, by the corresponding new bank.”

6. In section 9 of the Bank Nationalisation Act—

(i) in sub-section (2), in clause (a), the words “, so however that the paid-up capital of any such bank shall not be in excess of rupees one thousand five hundred crores” shall be omitted;

Insertion of new section 3A.

Trust not to be entered on the register.

Amendment of section 9.

(ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

(3) Every Board of Directors of a corresponding new bank, constituted under any scheme made under sub-section (1), shall include—

(a) not more than two whole-time directors to be appointed by the Central Government after consultation with the Reserve Bank;

(b) one director who is an official of the Central Government to be nominated by the Central Government:

Provided that no such director shall be a director of any other corresponding new bank.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause, the expression “corresponding new bank” shall include a corresponding new bank within the meaning of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980;

(c) one director who is an officer of the Reserve Bank to be nominated by the Central Government on the recommendation of the Reserve Bank.

Explanation.—For the purpose of this clause, “an officer of the Reserve Bank” includes an officer of the Reserve Bank who is deputed by that Bank under section 54AA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 to any institution referred to therein;

(d) not more than two directors to be nominated by the Central Government from amongst the Securities and Exchange Board of India established under section 3 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development established under section 3 of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981, public financial institutions as specified in sub-section (1), or notified from time to time under sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956 and other institutions established or constituted by or under any Central Act or incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and having not less than fifty-one per cent. of the paid-up share capital held or controlled by the Central Government;

(e) one director, from among such of the employees of the corresponding new bank who are workmen under clause (s) of section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to be nominated by the Central Government in such manner as may be specified in a scheme made under this section;

(f) one director, from among the employees of the corresponding new bank who are not workmen under

40 of 1980.

of 1934.

5 of 1992.

of 1981.

f 1956.

f 1947.

clause (s) of section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to be nominated by the Central Government after consultation with the Reserve Bank;

(g) one director who has been a Chartered Accountant for not less than fifteen years to be nominated by the Central Government after consultation with the Reserve Bank;

(h) subject to the provisions of clause (i), not more than six directors to be nominated by the Central Government;

(i) where the capital issued under clause (c) of sub-section (2B) of section (3) is—

(I) not more than twenty per cent. of the total paid-up capital, not more than two directors,

(II) more than twenty per cent. but not more than forty per cent. of the total paid-up capital, not more than four directors,

(III) more than forty per cent. of the total paid-up capital, not more than six directors,

to be elected by the shareholders, other than the Central Government, from amongst themselves:

Provided that on the assumption of charge after election of any such directors under this clause, equal number of directors nominated under clause (h) shall retire in such manner as may be specified in the scheme.

(3A) The directors to be nominated under clause (h) or to be elected under clause (i) of sub-section (3) shall—

(A) have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of one or more of the following matters, namely:—

(i) agricultural and rural economy,

(ii) banking,

(iii) co-operation,

(iv) economics,

(v) finance,

(vi) law,

(vii) small-scale industry,

(viii) any other matter the special knowledge of, and practical experience in, which would, in the opinion of the Reserve Bank, be useful to the corresponding new bank;

(B) represent the interests of depositors; or

(C) represent the interests of farmers, workers and artisans.

(3B) Where the Reserve Bank is of the opinion that any director of a corresponding new bank elected under clause (i) of sub-section (3) does not fulfil the requirements of sub-section (3A), it may, after giving to such director and the bank a reasonable opportunity of being heard, by order, remove such director and on such removal, the Board of Directors shall co-opt any other person fulfilling the requirements of sub-section (3A) as a director in place of the person so removed till a director is duly elected by the shareholders of the corresponding new bank in the next annual general meeting and the person so co-opted shall be deemed to have been duly elected by the shareholders of the corresponding new bank as a director.

7. In section 10 of the Bank Nationalisation Act,—

(i) in sub-section (7), for the words “shall transfer the balance of profits to the Central Government”, the words “may, out of its net profits, declare a dividend and retain the surplus, if any” shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-section (7A), after the words “the Central Government”, the words “and to the Reserve Bank” shall be inserted.

8. After section 10 of the Bank Nationalisation Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“10A. (1) A general meeting (in this Act referred to as an annual general meeting) of every corresponding new bank which has issued capital under clause (c) of sub-section (2B) of section 3 shall be held at the place of the head office of the bank in each year at such time as shall from time to time be specified by the Board of Directors:

Provided that such annual general meeting shall be held before the expiry of six weeks from the date on which the balance-sheet, together with the profit and loss account and auditor's report is, under sub-section (7A) of section 10, forwarded to the Central Government or to the Reserve Bank, whichever date is earlier.

(2) The shareholders present at an annual general meeting shall be entitled to discuss the balance-sheet and the profit and loss account of the corresponding new bank made up to the previous 31st day of March, the report of the Board of Directors on the working and activities of the corresponding new bank for the period covered by the accounts and the auditor's report on the balance-sheet and accounts.”

9. In section 19 of the Bank Nationalisation Act, in sub-section (2), after clause (b), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(ba) the nature of shares of the corresponding new bank, the manner in which and the conditions subject to which shares may be held and transferred and generally all matters relating to the rights and duties of shareholders;

(bb) the maintenance of register, and the particulars to be entered in the register in addition to those specified in sub-section

Amendment of section 10.

Insertion of new section 10A.

Annual general meeting.

Amendment of section 19.

(2F) of section 3, the safeguards to be observed in the maintenance of register on computer floppies or diskettes, inspection and closure of the register and all other matters connected therewith;

(bc) the manner in which general meetings shall be convened, the procedure to be followed thereat and the manner in which voting rights may be exercised;

(bd) the holding of meetings of shareholders and the business to be transacted thereat;

(be) the manner in which notices may be served on behalf of the corresponding new bank upon shareholders or other persons;

(bf) the manner in which the directors nominated under clause (h) of sub-section (3) of section 9 shall retire;"

CHAPTER III

AMENDMENTS TO THE BANKING COMPANIES (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) ACT, 1980

Amend-
ment of
section
2.

10. In section 2 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 [hereafter in this Chapter referred to as the Bank (Second) Nationalisation Act],—

40 of 1980.

(i) after clause (d), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(da) “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made under this Act;”

(ii) after clause (e), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(f) words and expressions used herein and not defined either in this Act or in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 but defined in the Companies Act, 1956 shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Companies Act, 1956.”

10 of 1949.
1 of 1956.

Substi-
tution of
new head-
ing for
heading
of Chap-
ter II.

11. In Chapter II of the Bank (Second) Nationalisation Act, for the heading “TRANSFER OF THE UNDERTAKINGS OF EXISTING BANKS”, the following heading shall be substituted, namely:—

“TRANSFER OF THE UNDERTAKINGS OF EXISTING BANKS AND SHARE CAPITALS OF THE CORRESPONDING NEW BANKS”.

Amend-
ment of
section 3.

12. In section 3 of the Bank (Second) Nationalisation Act, for sub-sections (2A) and (3), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2A) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the authorised capital of every corresponding new bank shall be one thousand five hundred crores of rupees divided into one hundred and fifty crores fully paid-up shares of ten rupees each:

Provided that the Central Government may, after consultation with the Reserve Bank and by notification in the Official Gazette,

increase or reduce the authorised capital as it thinks fit, so however that after such increase or reduction, the authorised capital shall not exceed three thousand crores or be less than one thousand five hundred crores, of rupees.

(2B) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), the paid-up capital of every corresponding new bank constituted under sub-section (1) may from time to time be increased by—

(a) such amounts as the Board of Directors of the corresponding new bank may, after consultation with the Reserve Bank and with the previous sanction of the Central Government, transfer from the reserve fund established by such bank to such paid-up capital;

(b) such amounts as the Central Government may, after consultation with the Reserve Bank, contribute to such paid-up capital;

(c) such amounts as the Board of Directors of the corresponding new bank may, after consultation with the Reserve Bank and with the previous sanction of the Central Government, raise by public issue of shares in such manner as may be prescribed, so however that the Central Government shall at all times hold not less than fifty-one per cent. of the paid-up capital of each corresponding new bank.

(2C) The entire paid-up capital of a corresponding new bank, except the paid-up capital raised by public issue under clause (c) of sub-section (2B), shall stand vested in, and allotted to, the Central Government.

(2D) The shares of every corresponding new bank not held by the Central Government shall be freely transferable:

Provided that no individual or company resident outside India or any company incorporated under any law not in force in India or any branch of such company, whether resident outside India or not, shall at any time hold or acquire by transfer or otherwise shares of the corresponding new bank so that such investment in aggregate exceeds the percentage, not being more than twenty per cent. of the paid-up capital, as may be specified by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause, “company” means any body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals.

(2E) No shareholder of the corresponding new bank, other than the Central Government, shall be entitled to exercise voting rights in respect of any shares held by him in excess of one per cent. of the total voting rights of all the shareholders of the corresponding new bank.

(2F) Every corresponding new bank shall keep at its head office a register, in one or more books, of the shareholders (in this Act

referred to as the register) and shall enter therein the following particulars:—

- (i) the names, addresses and occupations, if any, of the shareholders and a statement of the shares held by each shareholder, distinguishing each share by its denoting number;
- (ii) the date on which each person is so entered as a shareholder;
- (iii) the date on which any person ceases to be a shareholder; and
- (iv) such other particulars as may be prescribed.

(2G) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2F), it shall be lawful for every corresponding new bank to keep the register in computer floppies or diskettes subject to such safeguards as may be prescribed.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, a copy of, or extract from, the register, certified to be a true copy under the hand of an officer of the corresponding new bank authorised in this behalf by it, shall, in all legal proceedings, be admissible in evidence.

1 of 1872.

13. After section 3 of the Bank (Second) Nationalisation Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“3A. Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2F) of section 3, no notice of any trust, express, implied or constructive, shall be entered on the register, or be receivable, by the corresponding new bank.”

14. In section 9 of the Bank (Second) Nationalisation Act,—

- (i) in sub-section (2), in clause (a), the words “, so however that the paid-up capital of any such bank shall not be in excess of rupees one thousand five hundred crores” shall be omitted;
- (ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

‘(3) Every Board of Directors of a corresponding new bank, constituted under any scheme made under sub-section (1), shall include—

(a) not more than two whole-time directors to be appointed by the Central Government after consultation with the Reserve Bank;

(b) one director who is an official of the Central Government to be nominated by the Central Government:

Provided that no such director shall be a director of any other corresponding new bank.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause, the expression “corresponding new bank” shall include a corresponding

Insertion
of new
section
3A.

Trust not
to be
entered
on the
register.

Amend-
ment of
section 9.

5 of 1970.

new bank within the meaning of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970;

(c) one director who is an officer of the Reserve Bank to be nominated by the Central Government on the recommendation of the Reserve Bank.

2 of 1934.

Explanation.—For the purpose of this clause, “an officer of the Reserve Bank” includes an officer of the Reserve Bank who is deputed by that Bank under section 54AA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 to any institution referred to therein;

15 of 1992.

(d) not more than two directors to be nominated by the Central Government from amongst the Securities Exchange Board of India established under section 3 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development established under section 3 of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981, public financial institutions as specified in sub-section (1), or notified from time to time under sub-section (2), of section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956 and other institutions established or constituted by or under any Central Act or incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and having not less than fifty-one per cent. of the paid-up share capital held or controlled by the Central Government;

16 of 1981.

1 of 1956.

(e) one director, from among such of the employees of the corresponding new bank who are workmen under clause (s) of section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to be nominated by the Central Government in such manner as may be specified in a scheme made under this section;

14 of 1947.

(f) one director, from among the employees of the corresponding new bank who are not workmen under clause (s) of section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to be nominated by the Central Government after consultation with the Reserve Bank;

14 of 1947.

(g) one director who has been a Chartered Accountant for not less than fifteen years to be nominated by the Central Government after consultation with the Reserve Bank;

(h) subject to the provisions of clause (i) not more than six directors to be nominated by the Central Government;

(i) where the capital issued under clause (c) of sub-section (2B) of section 3 is—

(I) not more than twenty per cent. of the total paid-up capital, not more than two directors,

(II) more than twenty per cent. but than forty per cent. of the total paid-up capital, not more than four directors,

(III) more than forty per cent. of the total paid-up capital, not more than six directors,

to be elected by the shareholders, other than the Central Government, from amongst themselves:

Provided that on the assumption of charge after election of any such directors under this clause, equal number of directors nominated under clause (h) shall retire in such manner as may be specified in the scheme.

(3A) The directors to be nominated under clause (h) or to be elected under clause (i) of sub-section (3A) shall—

(A) have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of one or more of the following matters, namely:—

(i) agricultural and rural economy,

(ii) banking,

(iii) co-operation,

(iv) economics,

(v) finance,

(vi) law,

(vii) small-scale industry,

(viii) any other matter the special knowledge of, and practical experience in, which would, in the opinion of the Reserve Bank, be useful to the corresponding new bank;

(B) represent the interests of depositors; or

(C) represent the interests of farmers, workers and artisans.

(3B) Where the Reserve Bank is of the opinion that any director of a corresponding new bank elected under clause (i) of sub-section (3) does not fulfil the requirements of sub-section (3A), it may, after giving to such director and the bank a reasonable opportunity of being heard, by order, remove such director and on such removal, the Board of Directors shall co-opt any other person fulfilling the requirements of sub-section (3A) as a director in place of the person so removed till a director is duly elected by the shareholders of the corresponding new bank in the next annual general meeting and the person so co-opted shall be deemed to have been duly elected by the shareholders of the corresponding new bank as a director.

15. In section 10 of the Bank (Second) Nationalisation Act,—

Amendment of section 10.

(i) in sub-section (7), for the words "shall transfer the balance of profits to the Central Government", the words "may, out of its net profits, declare a dividend and retain the surplus, if any" shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-section (7A), after the words "the Central Government", the words "and to the Reserve Bank" shall be inserted.

16. After section 10 of the Bank (Second) Nationalisation Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

Insertion
of new
section
10A.

“10A. (1) A general meeting (in this Act referred to as an annual general meeting) of every corresponding new bank which has issued capital under clause (c) of sub-section (2B) of section 3 shall be held at the place of the head office of the bank in each year at such time as shall from time to time be specified by the Board of Directors;

Annual
general
meeting.

Provided that such annual general meeting shall be held before the expiry of six weeks from the date on which the balance-sheet, together with the profit and loss account and auditor's report is, under sub-section (7A) of section 10, forwarded to the Central Government or to the Reserve Bank, whichever date is earlier.

(2) The shareholders present at an annual general meeting shall be entitled to discuss the balance-sheet and the profit and loss account of the corresponding new bank made up to the previous 31st day of March, the report of the Board of Directors on the working and activities of the corresponding new bank for the period covered by the accounts and the auditor's report on the balance-sheet and accounts.”

17. In section 19 of the Bank (Second) Nationalisation Act, in sub-section (2), after clause (b), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

Amend-
ment of
section
19.

“(ba) the nature of shares of the corresponding new bank, the manner in which and the conditions subject to which shares may be held and transferred and generally all matters relating to the rights and duties of shareholders;

(bb) the maintenance of register, and the particulars to be entered in the register in addition to those specified in sub-section (2F) of section 3, the safeguards to be observed in the maintenance of register on computer floppies or diskettes, inspection and closure of the register and all other matters connected therewith;

(bc) the manner in which general meetings shall be convened, the procedure to be followed thereat and the manner in which voting rights may be exercised;

(bd) the holding of meetings of shareholders and the business to be transacted thereat;

(be) the manner in which notices may be served on behalf of the corresponding new bank upon shareholders or other persons;

(bf) the manner in which the directors nominated under clause (h) of sub-section (3) of section 9 shall retire;”