

# Non-Performing Assets in Public Sector Banks – A Study

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**Abstract:** Increase in non-performing assets (NPAs) is directly creating its impact on the financial performance of the banks. The high level of NPAs indicates that defaults in repayment continue to increase in large numbers, and this effects the profitability and net worth of banks. This article explains the concept of NPAs and review of literature on NPAs, Select banks performance during 2009-2018 and the current status of public sector banks in terms of the profitability. The contribution of the article is analysis of the impact of NPAs on the performance of public sector banks in general and on the performance of select public sector banks in particular.

**Keywords:** Non-Performing Assets, Gross NPAs, Net NPAs, Public sector banks

### Introduction

A strong banking sector is important for a flourishing economy. The failure of the banking sector may have an adverse impact on other sectors. Therefore, the banking system requires the smooth workflow in its financial operations. Though this system is delivering a strong base by providing finance to almost all the sectors, it is suffering with a major problem which is known as non-performing assets. It is the major concern of Indian banking system because it is affecting the financial performance of banks. It affects the whole banking system in general and public sector banks in particular. The increase in non-performing assets is directly creating its impact on the financial performance of the banks. The high level of non-performing assets indicates that the defaults are increasing in large number and affecting the profitability and net worth of the banks. The growth of non-performing assets is not only the problem of Indian banking system but it is also one of the major factors in the international market.

The Indian banking system is granting loans to the agricultural, industrial and service sector for the economic progress but in return not getting its return in time. Therefore, the loans are being converted into bad loans or non-performing assets. Granting loans to its customers is the primary duty of banks but the recovery option is becoming the major hurdle for most of the Indian banks. The banks are facing many problems at the time of recovering the loans. Thereby the loan is turning into a bad loan and banks are unable to pursue these loans. The banking sector in India is in a crisis with the increase in burden of bad loans provisioning and the decline in profitability of commercial banks particularly public sector banks. “Bankers are the heart and soul of any business. The economy of the country also mostly depends on the functioning of banking institutions. According to the Reserve Bank of India information the annual growth of Indian bank credit is declining with passage of time. It was nearly 30 per cent during 2007. But it reduced

to 9.7 per cent in the year 2014-2015. Further, it decreased to 9.4 per cent during beginning of the financial year 2015-2016. This decline in the credit growth is indicating that the performance of the banks is not smooth. It is being affected by non-performing assets.

### Meaning of Non-Performing Assets

Non-Performing Assets are the bad loans of the banking system. It is an asset of the bank that ceases to generate principal and interest amount of the loan. Every bank gives loans and advances to its customers. If customers or borrowers do not pay the principal or interest amount for a specific period of time then the loan turns into a bad loan. This bad loan in the banking sector is termed as a non-performing asset. Reserve Bank of India has defined the non-performing assets as the term loans on which interest or installment of principal amount or both remain overdue for a period of more than 90 days from the end of a particular quarter. Further, the RBI has issued the guidelines on non-performing assets in the master circular on Income Recognition, Asset Classification, Provisioning and Other Related Matters. According to it, an account can be declared as a non-performing asset under the following circumstances.

- i. When an account ceases to generate income or interest for the bank.
- ii. Bank overdraft or cash credit remains overdue continuously for 90 days.

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- iii. The bill purchased and/or discounted remains overdue for 90 days.
- iv. The securitization bill remains outstanding for 90 days.
- v. The derivative transaction remains unpaid for 90 days.
- vi. For agricultural loans, the principal or interest amount remains overdue
  - a. for two crop seasons in case of short duration crop loans;
  - b. for one crop season in case of long duration crop loans.

In all the above situations, the account of the borrower can be considered as non-performing asset based on the asset classification. In order to learn more about the NPAs, it is important to study the classification of the assets.

### Non-Performing Assets in India

In recent years, the gross NPAs of banks have increased from 2.3 per cent of total loans in 2008 to 4.3 per cent in 2015 and in the year 2016 it has increased to 7.6 per cent. Further, in the year 2017 it has jumped to 9.6 per cent. This increase in NPAs may be due to various reasons, including slow growth in domestic market and drop in prices of commodities in the global markets. In addition, exports of products such as steel, textiles, leather and gems have slowed down.

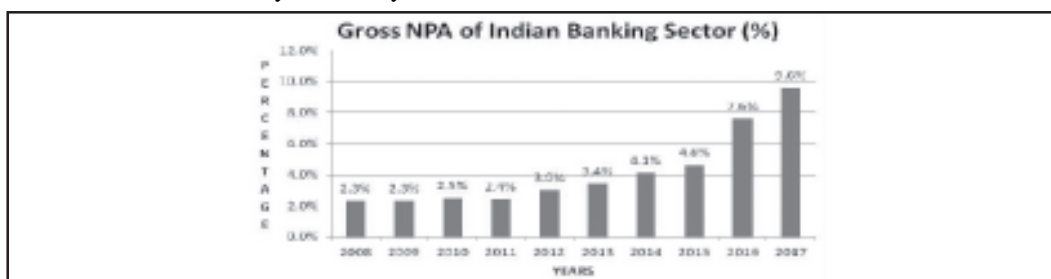


Figure: 1. Gross NPA of Indian Banking Sector

(Source: Press note given by former RBI Governor, Raghuram Rajan, The Hindu Newspaper)

The increase in NPAs is affecting the credit market in the country. This is due to the impact that non-repayment of loans has on the cash flow of banks and the availability of funds with them. Additionally, a rising trend in NPAs may also make banks unwilling to lend. This could be because there are lesser chances of debt recovery due to prevailing market conditions. For example,

banks may be unwilling to lend to the steel sector if companies in this sector are making losses and defaulting on current loans. Therefore, the banking sector has to bring some strong reforms in order to recover the bad loans issued in the market. There are various legislative mechanisms available in India with banks for debt recovery. The first mechanism was created after the

economic reforms in India in the year 1993 and given the name as DRT Act, 1993 (Recovery of Debt Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act). One more mechanism called SARFAESI Act (Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act) was created in the year 2002 to resolve the issues related to non-performing assets. This mechanism has given some resistance to the banking system but still it is not sufficient to curb the bad loans. Thereafter a few more mechanisms were established like Debt Recovery Tribunals, Corporate Debt Restructuring and Strategic Debt Restructuring but still the non-performing assets are growing all the time. The Reserve Bank of India has to take this up seriously. Otherwise the, banking system has to face the consequences related to it.

### **Review of Literature**

To study in detail about the topic we made an attempt to collect information from previous researches and relevant studies conducted in the area of impact of non-performing assets in the banking sector. The review of literature has been presented in a summarized and precise manner.

**Richa Banerjee, Deepak Verma and Dr. Bimal Jaiswal (2018)** made the study on NPAs and suggested that banks should focus on bettering the credit recovery policies. They also suggested that the focus is on better strategy formulation and implementation as well. The banks should also make effort to provide advances to creditworthy customers by analysing their risk-bearing capacity. The government should also make stringent provisions for the settlement or pruning of NPAs as the existence of NPAs ruin the profitability, asset quality and competitiveness of the banks and it also affects the financial health of the overall banking industry of India.

**Sri Ayan Chakraborty (2017)** viewed that there has been Substandard Assets, Doubtful Assets and Loss Assets of SBI which have made a negative impact on its Margin, Rate of Return as well as Liquidity Ratios over the years. Non-performing assets are an unavoidable burden for each banking industry. The success of banks depends upon methods of managing NPAs and keeping them within tolerance level. Hence, to change the curve

of NPAs, an effective monitoring and control policy should be planned and executed which is to be aided by proper legal reforms.

**Rajeswari Sengupta and Harsh Vardhan (2017)** stated that the growing non-performing asset is a recurrent problem in the Indian banking sector. Over the past two decades, there have been two such episodes when the banking sector was severely impaired by balance sheet problems.

**Dr.K.SreeLatha Reddy, M.V.Sivaram Naidu (2017)** conducted the study on NPAs and they concluded that there is an increasing trend in GNPA of all the SCBs. The standard assets are declining and the provisions are increasing. The increasing provisions are putting an additional burden on banks' profits and if profits are not sufficient to write off bad loans then the capital is used to write off. This erodes the capital structure of the bank and they need to be recapitalized. It is also found from the research that NNPA has direct impact on ROA and ROE. The correlation between NNPA and ROE and ROA is perfectly negative. NPA reduces the operational, financial and managerial efficiencies of the bank by increasing administrative costs, reducing profits and consuming more time in settling and follow-up. The solution to tackle NPA is not easily found.

**Abhani Dhara K (2017)** in his study concluded that there is a huge impact of NPA over the profitability of the banking sector. NPA shows the overall performance of banking sector. It is one of the serious problems of the banks now a days. It is impossible to eliminate NPAs altogether, but it is definitely possible to reduce the NPA ratio. It only requires proper management, enough precautions and timely follow up of loan repayment from customers.

**Sri Ayan Chakraborty (2017)** conducted the study on effects of NPA on banks' profitability. According to the study, Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India have performed rather poorly over the past 3-4 years. For the most part this has been on account of Non Performing Assets (NPA) related worries which have so far been brushed under the carpet. The banks should immediately

realize the cause of increasing NPAs and minimize.

**Dr. Biswanath Sukul (2017)** says that the management of NPAs is a very challenging task. It requires preventive measures as well as curative measures, i.e. banks should not only take steps to reduce the present NPAs but also take precaution to avoid future NPAs. Preventive measures include inculcating ethics in borrowers regarding the importance of timely repayment of credit, adherence of proper credit appraisal techniques, proper evaluation of projects, timely sanction and disbursement of credit, and proper credit monitoring to restrict any misuse and diversion of fund, etc.

**Dr. Ashok Kumar Gupta and Priyanka Gautam (2017)** concluded that the problem of non-performing assets (NPAs) is a serious issue and a danger to public banks because it destroys their sound financial position. The customers and the public would not trust banks any more if the banks have higher rates of NPAs. So the problem of NPAs must be handled in such a manner that would not ruin the financial positions and affect the image of the banks. In their study, they found that the level of NPAs both gross and net showing an increasing trend. They also found that there is a negative relationship between Net profits and NPA of PNB. They believed that it was because of mismanagement and wrong choice of clients. **Pacha Malyadri, S. Sirisha (2011)** have conducted the study related to the regulations of the non-performing assets. They have observed that the banking system in India is recovering some non-performing assets due to the implementations of CAMEL (Capital Adequacy, Asset Quality, Management Soundness, Earning Capacity and Liquidity). They have suggested that the government should formulate bank specific policies to curb non-performing assets. Further, the government should implement these policies through Reserve Bank of India for upliftment of Public Sector Banks.

**Mayilsamy, R and Revathi Bala, M (2009)** conducted the study on Management of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in India. They have

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emphasised that the report given by the Narasimham Committee Report-1998 is rightly highlighting the issue of non-performing assets. It is affecting the nation in terms of decrease in capital and insufficient credit financing.

**Lakshmanan, C and Dharmendran, A (2007)** studied the impact of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) on performance variables in Chennai Central Co-operative Bank. They examined performance variables, namely net profit, investment, legal expenses and spread. They observed that the results of NPAs on all the above performance variables were negative and insignificant at 5 per cent level in all the equations. They concluded that the effective management of NPAs is essential to strengthen the financial position of the bank.

**Avinash V. Raikar (2006)** has studied the issues and problems of co-operative credit institutions. He identified that the major problem of co-operative credit institutions is the high overdues or bad loans as well as low resources of collecting the funds. He concluded that in order to survive the CCIs have to use the modern technologies and try to reduce the burden of overdues.

**S. Sambasiva Rao (2002)** conducted the study on recovery of loans and its mechanism. He suggested that the defaults of bank loans should be treated as criminal offence. Further, the defaulters should be punished severely so that others will not commit the same error. Finally, he concluded that financial recovery should be made from the possible sources in order to recover the loan value.

**The Working Committee (1999)** of central government has concluded that the non-performing assets are affecting the banking system adversely. They have suggested that strong mechanism is required to handle a issue in a serious manner. They have also recommended that the compromising model for the non-performing assets recovery is the most effective mechanism.

**Reserve Bank of India** conducted the study on the non-performing assets. They stated that the banks have to closely monitor the operations of the bank loans. They have also concluded that the banks have to take severe steps to recover

the overdues. It is the responsibility of the bank staff to examine the defaulters and pursue them accordingly. Finally, they have emphasised on the monitoring of large non-performing asset accounts and viewed that it can be reduced through the up-gradation of technology and compromise settlement option of recovery.

From the above literature review it is found that earlier researchers have covered many aspects of impact of non-performing assets in public sector banks but they have not covered on statistical information of gross NPA and Net NPAs. Keeping this in view we have taken up this study.

**Significance of The Study**

In banking system the role of public sector banks is very significant as it holds nearly 80 per cent of the market share in the form of deposit, loans and advances. It contributes directly to the generation of Gross Domestic Product by mobilizing savings and channelizing investments. But after managing every challenge successfully and by giving standard services to the customers, NPA became the biggest of all challenges to the banking sector and managing NPA is one of the hardest tasks for the banks.

**Objectives of The Study**

The main objective of the study is to analyse the impact of NPAs on the performance of selected public sector banks. The other objectives are as follows:

- i. To analyze the Gross NPA and Net NPAs of selected public sector banks
- ii. To assess the trends of NPAs of selected public sector banks
- iii. To analyse the impact of non-performing assets on the performance of public sector banks

$$\text{Gross NPA (In Percentage)} = \frac{\text{Gross NPA}}{\text{Gross Advances}} \times 100$$

**Table No - 1**

**Statement Showing Gross NPA ratio of select public sector banks from 2009 to 2018**

Bank	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Andhra Bank	0.83	0.86	1.38	2.12	3.71	5.29	5.31	8.39	12.25	17.09
Bank of India	1.71	3.31	2.64	2.91	2.99	3.15	5.39	13.07	13.22	16.58
Central Bank of India	2.67	2.32	1.82	4.83	4.80	6.27	6.09	11.95	17.81	21.48
Indian Bank	0.89	0.76	0.99	1.94	3.33	3.67	4.40	6.66	7.47	7.37
Indian Overseas Bank	2.54	4.71	2.71	2.79	5.49	3.65	8.33	17.40	22.39	25.28
IDBI	1.38	1.54	1.79	2.57	3.22	4.90	5.88	10.98	21.25	27.95
Punjab National Bank	1.77	1.71	1.79	3.15	4.27	5.25	6.55	12.90	12.53	18.38
State Bank of India	2.56	2.82	3.12	4.36	4.42	4.96	4.28	6.38	9.11	10.91
Syndicate Bank	1.93	2.43	2.65	2.75	1.99	2.62	3.13	6.70	8.50	11.53
UCO Bank	2.21	2.15	3.31	3.73	5.42	4.32	6.76	16.09	17.12	24.64

(Source: Compiled from secondary data)

**Research Methodology**

The present study is done on the financial performance of the selected public sector banks. The selected banks are Andhra bank, Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, IDBI, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India (including its associates), Syndicate Bank and UCO Bank. The data is collected from RBI publications, annual reports of banks, journals, official records and other published sources. The collected data is edited, classified, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted. Finally, conclusion is drawn based on the study and suggestions are offered.

**Limitations of The Study**

The following are the limitations of the study:

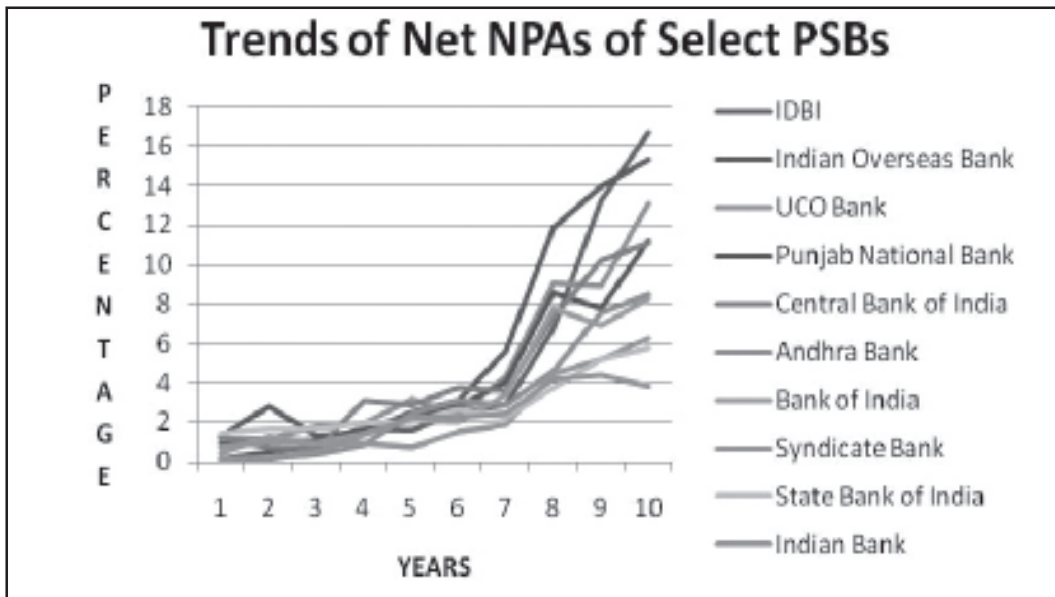
- i. The study is limited to the select public sector banks.
- ii. The data is related to last 10 years only.
- iii. As the sample is insignificant to the banking sector, therefore findings cannot be generalised.

**Data Analysis and Interpretation**

**Gross Non-Performing Assets of Select Public Sector Banks**

Gross NPA ratio shows the relation between the amount of gross NPAs and advances in terms of percentage. The increase in this ratio is an indication that bank advances are getting converted into bad loans. Further, the increase in this ratio will decrease the financial capability of the bank. In the study we have analysed the gross NPA ratio of 10 select public sector banks with the following formula:





Graph.2. Showing trends of net NPAs of select public sector banks

### Interpretation

Table 2 and Graph 2 show the trends of the net NPAs of select public sector banks from 2009 to 2018. As per the data, the net NPAs of select public sector banks are showing an increasing trend. The highest among them is 16.69 per cent of IDBI Bank followed by Indian Overseas Bank (15.33), UCO bank (13.10), Punjab National Bank (11.24), Central Bank of India (11.10), etc. The lowest per cent is 3.81 per cent of Indian Bank. Further, the study shows that in the year 2009 the percentages of all the banks are very low and increased very significantly at a later time.

In Andhra Bank, it was 0.18 per cent in the year 2009 and it increased to 8.48 per cent in 2018. In BOI, it was 0.44 and increased to 8.26. CBI showed an increase from 1.24 per cent to 11.10 per cent and the gross Net NPAs of PNB showed an increase from 0.17 per cent in the year 2009 to 11.24 per cent in 2018. In IOB, it was 1.33 per cent in 2009 and increased to 15.33. per cent IDBI highlighted the highest increase from 0.92 to 16.69 followed by UCO bank. Syndicate bank, SBI and Indian Bank also showed similar trends

but compared to other banks its percentage is lower. To conclude the analysis we can say that the increase in net NPAs is very significant in almost all the select banks. Such increase of percentage is responsible for the decline of the funds with the banks for the purpose of lending to the borrowers. As a result, the profitability of banks is also declining.

### Impact of Non-Performing Assets on the Performance of Public Sector Banks

Non-performing assets are of the major barriers to the performance of public sector banks. The banks are not in the position to grant loans and advances to the new customers due to the impact of non-performing assets. Thus, the public sector banks are facing big problem due to the increase of non-performing assets. In order to analyse the impact of non-performing assets of the performance of public sector banks, we have taken the operating profit of all 21 banks for the financial year 2017-18, provisions made by the bank in that year, gross NPA ratio and profit or loss in the year. The collected data is presented in the Table 3.

**Table - 3**  
**Statement showing Bank-wise details of Gross NPAs, Operating Profit, Provision done and Net Profit / Loss as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**  
**(Financial Year 2017-18)**

1	Allahabad Bank	16.0	3438	8113	-4675
2	Andhra Bank	17.09	5361	8774	-3413
3	Bank of Baroda	12.30	12006	14437	-2431
4	Bank of India	16.58	7139	13183	-6044
5	Bank of Maharashtra	19.50	2191	3337	-1146
6	Canara Bank	11.80	9548	13770	-4222
7	Central Bank of India	21.48	2733	7838	-5105
8	Corporation Bank	17.40	3950	8004	-4054
9	Dena Bank	22.0	1171	3094	-1923
10	IDBI Bank Limited	27.95	7905	16142	-8237
11	Indian Bank	7.37	5001	3742	1259
12	Indian Overseas Bank	25.28	3629	9929	-6300
13	Oriental Bank of Commerce	17.60	3703	9575	-5872
14	Punjab & Sind Bank	11.20	1145	1889	-744
15	Punjab National Bank	18.38	10294	22577	-12283
16	State Bank of India	10.91	59511	66058	-6547
17	Syndicate Bank	11.53	3864	7087	-3223
18	UCO Bank	24.64	1334	5771	-4437
19	Union Bank of India	15.70	7540	12787	-5247
20	United Bank of India	24.10	1025	2479	-1454
21	Vijaya Bank	6.30	3098	2371	727
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>155586</b>	<b>240957</b>	<b>-85371</b>

Sources: RBI (global operations, provisional data for Mar-2018)

#### Interpretation

The above data is collected from the official website of RBI. To assess the profitability of the Public Sector Banks the recent year financial data i.e., from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 is collected. The data reveals the following important aspects.

- All the public sector banks are showing operating profits at the end of the financial year. But after deducting the provisions, the banks' net profit is showing negative trend.
- The total operating profit of PSBs is Rs.1,55,586 crores in the year 2017-18. And the total provisions made is 2,40,957 crores which is much higher than the operating profits.
- The PSBs are showing the net loss of Rs. 85,371 crores. Thus, the public sector banks

are suffering from the losses due to the burden of NPAs.

- State Bank of India had the highest operating profit, i.e. Rs. 59,511 crores followed by Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank but the provisions of the banks are higher than the operating profits. Hence, their balance sheet is showing net loss.
- Out of 21 Public Sector Banks, 19 banks are showing net loss whereas only 2 banks are showing net profit.
- The interesting fact is that the net profit of the two banks namely Indian Bank (Rs. 1,259 crores) and Vijaya Bank (Rs. 727 crores) is mainly because of their lower gross NPA ratio. The gross NPA ratio of Indian Bank is 7.37 per cent and for Vijaya Bank it is 6.30 per cent.

- This analysis is an indication for the public sector banks which are suffering with the drawback of non-performing assets and hence they must take initiative for reducing it.
- Hence, it can be concluded that there is an impact of non-performing assets on the performance of public sector banks.

### Conclusion

After analysing the select public sector banks gross NPA and net NPA ratios for the period of 10 years and the recent net profits of all public sector banks we can say that the public sector banks are suffering a lot with the performance barrier called “non-performing assets”. They are unable to bring back the bad loans or the unproductive loans to the banks. The analysis also indicates that the banks provide advances on a regular basis but when it comes to the matter of recovering the loans the banks are unable to fulfill their duties. It may be due to the lower power in the hands of bank branches, or may be the transfer of higher authorities from one branch to another from time to time, or may be due to the negligence, etc. But the overall position says that non-performing assets are seriously affecting the banking system, resulting in lower profitability, loss and inconsistency in financial performance of Indian banking system in general and public sector banks in particular.

### Recommendations

Non-performing assets are like termites which eat into the whole financial system. If this termite is not controlled, it will be dangerous for the financial system. The government has taken several policy decisions and has prepared several strategies to control the high rate of NPAs in the banking sector. But these steps have not created the desired effect on the rate of NPAs. Here are some suggestions for reducing non-performing assets. If these suggestions are implemented effectively, they will be helpful for reducing NPAs with immediate effect.

- Proper selection of borrowers is one of the primary duties of the bank in order to control the loans from turning into bad loans or non-performing assets.

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- After the sanctioning of the loan, the bank should follow up the borrower regularly.
- Every bank should create one recovery cell to collect the principal amount as well as the interest on loans.
- If the loan is converted into non-performing asset, then the bank should publish the name of the defaulter in the local newspapers.
- The bank should assign more power to the branch managers to recover the NPAs.

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