STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
CHANDIGARH CIRCLE
(Registred under Trade Unions Act, 1926- Regd No. 186/1979)
C/O State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Sector 17, Chandigarh
Contact Nos. : 0172-4567134-133-135, 8053023447

Circular No. 2026/10/5 **Date: 01.11.2026**

From Resolution to Action: Parliamentary Outreach for Five-Day Week

Five-Day Banking • Consolidated campaign report, 16–31 October 2026 • Update II

Dear Members,

Our Circle Association's Central Committee meeting of 10 October 2026 resolved to pursue the long-pending demand for a Five-Day Work Week through organised parliamentary, institutional and public outreach at Circle Level. We also resolved to pursue other issues at Circle level through meaningful interventions.

Our circulars of 11th October and 26th October laid out the background and forward programme. This consolidated update records the progress achieved through 31st October, 11 Hon'ble MPs met, and the latest engagement across our Modules.

11	07	02
Total Hon'ble MPs met	New Hon'ble MPs met in this round	Written Recommendations from Hon'ble MPs

WHERE THE CAMPAIGN STANDS | FIRST ROUND: 16–23 OCTOBER



01

16 OCT Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP | Jammu

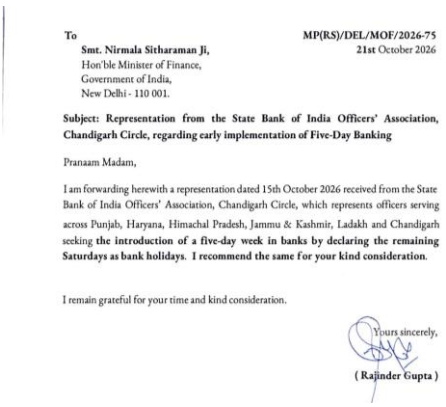
Team Jammu submitted a memorandum seeking early Government approval. The hon'ble MP assured the delegation he would take up the matter at the appropriate level.



02

19 OCT Shri Ghulam Ali Khatana, MP | Jammu

Jammu Module delegation sought support for the proposal and conveyed the continuing concerns of officers and employees. hon'ble assured to take this up.



To
Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji,
Hon'ble Minister of Finance,
Government of India,
New Delhi - 110 001.

MP(RS)/DEL/MOF/2026-75
21st October 2026

Subject: Representation from the State Bank of India Officers' Association, Chandigarh Circle, regarding early implementation of Five-Day Banking

Pranaam Madam,

I am forwarding herewith a representation dated 15th October 2026 received from the State Bank of India Officers' Association, Chandigarh Circle, which represents officers serving across Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh seeking **the introduction of a five-day week in banks by declaring the remaining Saturdays as bank holidays. I recommend the same for your kind consideration.**

I remain grateful for your time and kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,
(Rajinder Gupta)

03

21 OCT Shri Rajinder Gupta, MP (Rajya Sabha) | Punjab | Written intervention

Following our Association's approach, hon'ble MP forwarded our representation to the Union Finance Minister and recommended declaring the remaining Saturdays as bank holidays. A copy of his signed letter is appended to this circular.

04



23 OCT Shri Varun Chaudhary, MP | Ambala | Haryana

The delegation led by Com. Prem Pawar and Com. Vinay Kumar held a detailed discussion and received an assurance of written intervention with the Finance Minister.

SECOND ROUND | 28–29 OCTOBER

Delegations Reach More Parliamentarians

Engagements across Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Chandigarh

A SIGNIFICANT FOLLOW-UP • 28 OCTOBER

Following the Panchkula Module meeting of 23 October, Shri Varun Chaudhary, Hon'ble MP, wrote to Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on 28 October 2026, seeking expedited approval and notification of the Five-Day Work Week. A copy of his signed letter is appended to this circular. The letter bears a Ministry of Finance receipt stamp dated 29 October 2026.



Discussion with the Shimla Module delegation

28 OCT Shri Suresh Kashyap, MP

Shimla Module | Nahan

The delegation led by Module President Com. Deepak Kumar, DGS Com. Khem Raj Verma and Circle Org. Secy Com. Dinesh Sharma met the Hon'ble MP at his residence and submitted a memorandum. During the interaction, they urged him to raise the issue in Parliament and with the Finance Ministry. He assured them of a written communication to the Government and personal follow-up.



Jalandhar Unit presents the memorandum

29 OCT S. Charanjit Singh Channi, MP

Ludhiana Module | Jalandhar

A delegation of the Ludhiana Module (Jalandhar Unit) formally handed over a memorandum seeking the implementation of Five-Day Banking to Hon'ble MP, who assured to take up the matter.



The Patiala delegation submits the memorandum

29 OCT Dr. Dharamvir Gandhi, MP

Circle & Mohali Module Office Bearers | Patiala

Circle President Com. Rajiv Sirhindi led a delegation with VPs Com. Binay Sinha, Com. Harbagh Singh and Com. Dinesh Devgarhia; Organising Secretary Com. R. S. Walia; Zonal President Com. Jasbir Singh; and Regional Secretaries. During the approximately 25-minute meeting, the MP assured them he would write to the Finance Minister and seek parliamentary discussion on the issue.

SECOND ROUND | 29–31 OCTOBER

The Outreach Widens Across Regions

Delegations from Panchkula, Mohali, Rohtak and Kashmir Valley



Panchkula Module delegation meets Hon'ble MP

29 OCT Shri Manish Tewari, MP

Panchkula Module | Chandigarh

The delegation included DGS Com. Prem Pawar, AGS Com. Ram Kishor Poddar, and other office bearers. The Hon'ble MP made observations on the submitted memorandum and assured the delegation that he would raise the demand.



Mohali Module delegation during the meeting

31 OCT Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal, MP

Mohali Module | Hoshiarpur

A Delegation from Pathankot (Mohali Module), led by Com. Anil Kumar (AGS), Com. Sukhwinder Singh (Regional Secretary), met the Hon'ble MP and sought his intervention for early implementation through the appropriate parliamentary forum.



Rohtak Module delegation presents its case

31 OCT Shri Dharambir Singh, MP

Rohtak Module | Bhiwani–Mahendragarh

A Rohtak Module delegation led by Com. Jitender Siwach and Com. Rajesh Bamal, AGS Com. Raj Kumar raised the Five-Day Banking demand and sought Hon'ble MPs support for an early decision. The Hon'ble MP assured the delegation that he would take the matter up at the appropriate level.



Kashmir Valley delegation submits memorandum

31 OCT Shri Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, MP

Jammu Module | Team Kashmir Valley | Srinagar

The Kashmir Valley delegation led by Com. Shah Zaman met the Hon'ble MP at his residence and appealed for his support in securing early implementation. He assured the team of his support for bankers and stated that he would raise the matter in Parliament.

A Wider Voice for Five-Day Banking

From signed representations to parliamentary advocacy, and from bank offices to public discourse

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY 31 OCTOBER

Our teams have met with eleven Hon'ble Members of Parliament across the campaign period. Two written representations to the Union Finance Minister are now documented: Shri Rajinder Gupta's intervention dated 21 October and Shri Varun Chaudhary's letter dated 28 October. Other Hon'ble MPs have extended assurances of support, proposed communications or parliamentary intervention. We value these assurances, while recognising that only a formal Government decision can resolve the issue.

THE PRESS IS TAKING NOTICE

Our parliamentary outreach has appeared in multiple newspapers and media outlets, including English, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi newspapers. This visibility strengthens public awareness of the legitimate and longstanding demand; and broadens informed discussion.



MP Dr Dharamvir Gandhi, seeking their intervention for the early implementation of a five-day work week in the banking industry. The Panchkula Module delegation, led by Deputy General Secretary Prem Pawar, submitted a memorandum to Tewari, urging him to raise the long-pending demand in Parliament.

Pawar said the Indian Banks' Association had accepted the proposal under the 12th Bipartite Settlement and Ninth Joint Note, but government approval remained pending. He pointed out that institutions such as the RBI, SEBI, NSE and BSE already followed a five-day schedule. The proposed arrangement would benefit nearly 20 lakh bank employees and officers. Tewari assured the delegation of his support.

The delegation included Ram Kishor Poddar, Nirmal Setia, Jyoti Rai Kaundal, Deepak Sodhi, Ravinder Chouhan, Sanjeev Bhardwaj and Rizwan Ansari.

Patiala: Meanwhile, an SBIOA

English press



दिव्य हिमाचल

फाइव-डे वर्किंग लागू करने की मांग

एसबीआई ऑफिसर्स एसोसिएशन ने सांसद सुरेश कश्यप को सौंपा ज्ञापन, संसद में मुद्दा उठाने का किया आग्रह

कार्यालय संवाददाता-नाहन

स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया ऑफिसर्स एसोसिएशन (एसबीआई ओए) सिरमौर मॉड्यूल के प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने बैंकिंग उद्योग में पांच दिवसीय कार्य सप्ताह लागू करने की मांग को लेकर सांसद सुरेश कश्यप से नाहन में मुलाकात की। प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने सांसद को ज्ञापन सौंपते हुए इस लंबे समय से लंबित मांग को संसद के आगामी सत्र में उठाने और केंद्र सरकार के वित्त मंत्रालय के समक्ष उपयोगी ढंग से रखने का आग्रह किया। प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व एसबीआई ऑफिसर्स एसोसिएशन सिरमौर मॉड्यूल के अध्यक्ष कामरेड दीपक कुमार और महासचिव रोमनाज वर्मा ने किया। इस दौरान प्रतिनिधियों ने मांग से जुड़े प्रमुख बिंदुओं और इसके समाधान के लिए आवश्यक सुझाव को जानकारी सांसद को उपलब्ध की। एसोसिएशन के प्रतिनिधियों ने बताया कि बैंक अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों के लिए पांच दिवसीय

नाहन। मांगों को लेकर संसद को ज्ञापन देता प्रतिनिधिमंडल

Hindi press



TRANSLINK TIMES PUNJABI NEWS PAPER

ਬੈਂਕ ਕਰਮਚਾਰੀਆਂ ਲਈ ਪੰਜ ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਕੰਮਕਾਜੀ ਹਫ਼ਤਾ

ਲਾਗੂ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ, ਸੰਸਦ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਚਰਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੰਨੀ ਨੂੰ ਸੌਂਪਿਆ ਮੰਗ ਪੱਤਰ

Punjabi press

THE NEXT PHASE

Continue multi-party parliamentary engagement. Every Module should identify and approach MPs across the constituencies it serves, seeking time-bound, documented follow-up with the Government and in Parliament.

Record commitments and follow through. We shall seek copies of letters and records of parliamentary questions or interventions, and keep members informed of progress.

Build credible public understanding. Trade and industry associations, senior citizens, customers, civil society and other stakeholders to be reached.

Research and Public Awareness: Commission an independent, time-bound research study through a reputed public university in Chandigarh to examine the efficiency and productivity of institutions operating on a five-day work-week model, assess the impact of introducing two Saturday holidays on the operational efficiency of Public Sector Banks, and evaluate the effects of prolonged and unregulated working hours on employee stress, health and work-life balance. The findings will be published and widely disseminated through leading newspapers and other credible platforms to generate informed public discourse and provide much-needed empirical evidence in support of our legitimate demand for Five-Day Banking.

National Level Symposium in Chandigarh - on contribution of bankers and work-life balance of bank employees

Promises are ok. Written interventions matter. Implementation remains our goal.

Our Circle Level Efforts Continue.

OUR APPEAL TO MEMBERS

We invite every Module, Regional Secretary and willing member to strengthen this endeavour. Share credible local stakeholder contacts, fact-based inputs and constructive suggestions, and help communicate officers' experiences of working beyond customer-service hours. All outreach will remain respectful, non-partisan and focused on the public interest. We remain committed to the everyday welfare of members while pursuing this industry-level objective with perseverance and purpose.

With fraternal greetings,

Comradely yours,

PRIYVRAT
GENERAL SECRETARY

Letter to the Union Finance Minister

Letter from Shri Rajinder Gupta, MP (Rajya Sabha), to the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister

21 October 2026 • Ref. MP(RS)/DEL/MOF/2026-75 • Enclosing SBIOA Chandigarh Circle representation dated 15 October 2026

सत्यमेव जयते

Rajinder Gupta
Member of Parliament
Rajya Sabha

To
Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji,
Hon'ble Minister of Finance,
Government of India,
New Delhi - 110 001.

MP(RS)/DEL/MOF/2026-75
21st October 2026

Subject: Representation from the State Bank of India Officers' Association, Chandigarh Circle, regarding early implementation of Five-Day Banking

Pranaam Madam,

I am forwarding herewith a representation dated 15th October 2026 received from the State Bank of India Officers' Association, Chandigarh Circle, which represents officers serving across Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh seeking **the introduction of a five-day week in banks by declaring the remaining Saturdays as bank holidays. I recommend the same for your kind consideration.**

I remain grateful for your time and kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Rajinder Gupta)

Encl.: Representation dated 15.10.2026 from SBI Officers' Association, Chandigarh Circle

Trident Group
5/3 Shanti Niketan.
New Delhi - 110021

Trident Group
E212 Kitchlu Nagar.
Ludhiana - 141001

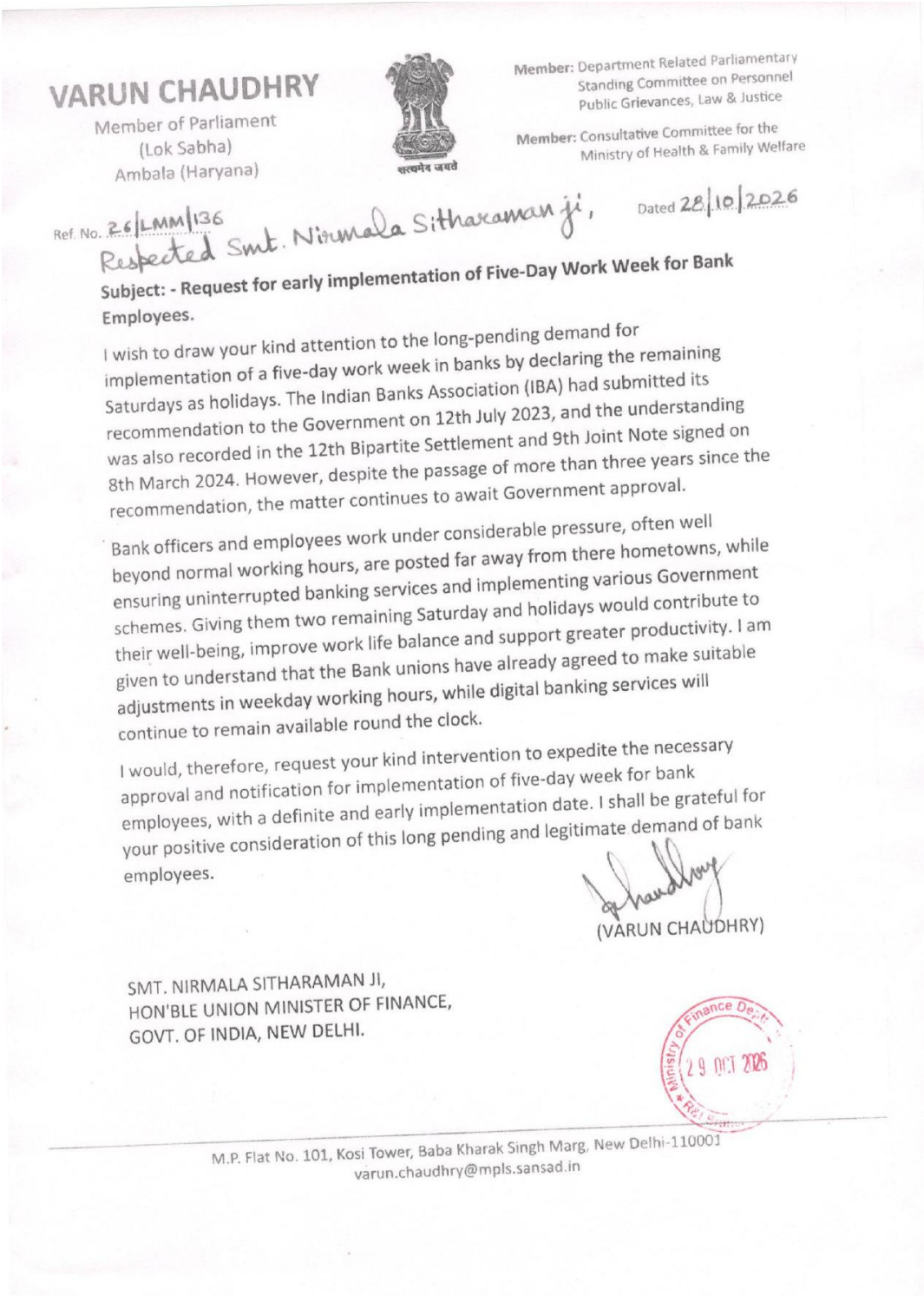
rgupta.1959@sansad.nic.in
rg@tridentindia.com

+91 98789 99999
+91 98102 99999

Letter to the Union Finance Minister

Shri Varun Chaudhary, MP (Ambala) • Dated 28 October 2026 • Received 29 October 2026

The letter below follows the delegation meeting of 23 October and requests early approval and notification of the remaining Saturdays as bank holidays.



VARUN CHAUDHRY
Member of Parliament
(Lok Sabha)
Ambala (Haryana)

सत्यमेव जयते

Member: Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel Public Grievances, Law & Justice

Member: Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Ref. No. 26/LMM/136 Dated 28/10/2026

Respected Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman ji,

Subject: - Request for early implementation of Five-Day Work Week for Bank Employees.

I wish to draw your kind attention to the long-pending demand for implementation of a five-day work week in banks by declaring the remaining Saturdays as holidays. The Indian Banks Association (IBA) had submitted its recommendation to the Government on 12th July 2023, and the understanding was also recorded in the 12th Bipartite Settlement and 9th Joint Note signed on 8th March 2024. However, despite the passage of more than three years since the recommendation, the matter continues to await Government approval.

Bank officers and employees work under considerable pressure, often well beyond normal working hours, are posted far away from there hometowns, while ensuring uninterrupted banking services and implementing various Government schemes. Giving them two remaining Saturday and holidays would contribute to their well-being, improve work life balance and support greater productivity. I am given to understand that the Bank unions have already agreed to make suitable adjustments in weekday working hours, while digital banking services will continue to remain available round the clock.

I would, therefore, request your kind intervention to expedite the necessary approval and notification for implementation of five-day week for bank employees, with a definite and early implementation date. I shall be grateful for your positive consideration of this long pending and legitimate demand of bank employees.

(VARUN CHAUDHRY)

SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN JI,
HON'BLE UNION MINISTER OF FINANCE,
GOVT. OF INDIA, NEW DELHI.

Ministry of Finance Dept. 29 OCT 2026

M.P. Flat No. 101, Kosi Tower, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi-110001
varun.chaudhry@mpls.sansad.in