Why Should We Care About Development Finance? ...because it's our money!

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SBI Waiver on Minimum Balance Penalty is Welcome

Financial Accountability Network India (FAN India) welcomes the announcement of State Bank of India (SBI) to waive the penalty for not maintaining Average Minimum Balance and for SMS service. The bank charges were a direct assault on the poor by the banks to socialise losses made by big business. The write-off of bad loans since 2014 is Rs. 7.0 lakh crores. Even then the total impaired assets is at Rs. 16.9 lakh crores and the outstanding non performing assets are Rs. 9.1 lakh crore. People’s movements, trade unions, civil society organisations and concerned citizens had launched the No Bank Charges campaign in 2018. The campaign held a number of programs – street corner meetings, photo exhibitions, public meetings, protest actions, online campaign etc demanding the banks to withdraw the charges which hurt the poor the most.

Random Reflections- Will the FM yield to the demands of the people and apologise?

The FM has reprimanded the Chairman of SBI in an outreach meeting at Guwahati in which the Finance Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma, officials from banks and state government and few ruling party workers were present. Someone has recorded the conversation and circulated an audio tape which has gone viral.

Procedures for WB’s New Accountability Mechanism Lacks Transparency and Inclusivity

A new accountability mechanism – an “expanded” one as the Bank says, called ‘World Bank Accountability Mechanism’ will be in place from Sept 2020 and will constitute two separate roles – the Inspection Panel (IPN) and a separate Dispute Resolution Mechanism (DRM).