



LOWERING INTEREST RATES, ITS IMPACT ON SOCIETY & ECONOMY

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ABSTRACT:

Interest is the cost of funds from the borrowers point of view while it is the yield on capital from the lenders point of view.

Monetary policy operates by influencing the price of money, i.e. the cost of borrowing and the income from saving: The Reserve Bank of India sets the bank rate. This is an interest rate for the Reserve Bank's own market transactions with financial institutions, the rate at which the Reserve Bank will make short-term loans to banks and other financial institutions. This rate is known as the bank rate.

KEYWORDS : borrowers point , Monetary policy operates.

INTRODUCTION:

Changes in the Bank rate then affect the whole range of interest rates set by commercial banks, other financial institutions, etc., for their own savers and



borrowers. It will influence interest rates charged for overdrafts and mortgages, as well as savings accounts. A change in the Bank Rate will also tend to affect the price of financial assets such as bonds and shares, and the exchange rate.

Impact of Lower Interest Rates on Society and Economy

Monetary policy aims to influence the overall level of monetary demand in the economy so that it grows broadly in line with the economy's ability to produce goods and services. This stops output rising too quickly or slowly. Interest rates

are increased to moderate demand and inflation and they are reduced to stimulate demand. If rates are set too low, this may encourage the build-up of inflationary pressure; if they are set too high, demand will be lower than necessary to control inflation. How does this work?

India's current real interest rates are one of the highest in the world. They result in inflating the cost of production making the industry less competitive in the world market. All the sectors like agricultural, industrial and services sectors are showing signs of

slower growth to stimulate the growth, the government through RBI (Bank rate) will have to bring interest rates down. The reduction in interest rate will have a two fold effect:

- a) It will bring down the interest burden of the corporate, agriculturist & also farmers & weaker section.
- b) It will help reduce cost of capital.

Lower interest rates will reduce cost of capital, the reduction in cost of capital will stimulate industrial growth and investment.

2. It will also enable the small and medium industries for growth.

3. Lower interest rates will help in economic upliftment of rural farmers and weaker sections, it can be done by reducing the lending rates under various

scheme i.e. under farm mechanisation, pump set, KisanCredit Card, educational loans scheme and other schemes, such as Prime Minister RojgarYojna, IRDP etc.

4. The farmers, agricultural labourers and non-agricultural labourers and other small businessmen in the rural area are indebted to different agencies (i.e. non-professional money lenders). By lowering interest rates will help in control of exploitation by private moneylenders.

5. Lowering interest rates also helps for the unproductive activities to villagers, (if they take loans from banks) to meet social obligations like marriages, birth and other ceremonies, which will prevent them from indebtedness.

6. Lower interest rates have the effects on savers and borrowers. For savers, a rise in interest rate will increase the money received from deposits in banks. For borrowers, a rise in interest rate means higher interest payments for peoples and firms on their loans.

7. Lower interest rates mean cheaper loans for the common man which will create demand for goods and services.

8. When interest rates are changed, demand can be affected in various ways. A change in the cost of borrowing affects spending decisions. Interest rates will affect the attractiveness of the spending today relative to spending tomorrow.

9. A change in interest rates will affect consumers' and firms' cash flow. For savers, a rise in interest rates will increase the money received from interest-bearing bank and other deposits.

10. A change in interest rates affects the value of certain assets, such as house and share prices. Higher interest rates increase the return on savings in banks of PPF. This might encourage savers to invest less of their money in alternatives, such as property and company shares.

11. A particular influence on prices comes through the exchange rate. A rise interest rates relative to those in other countries will tend to result in an increase in the amount of funds flowing into India, as investors are attracted to the higher rates of interest. This will tend to result in an appreciation of the exchange rate against other currencies.

CONCLUSION

In the last few years interest rates have been deregulated. After the deregulation, interest rates initially moved up. However in recent times, interest rates have begun to come down mainly because of ample liquidity prevalent in the system. The integration of the domestic economy with global economics also had a positive impact on interest rates. The Indian scenario and conditions are not comparable to world standard. We lack the maturity of financial markets and strong infrastructure. This is the reason Indian should not blindly follow international practices of lowering interest rates.

Lowering interest rates has a great impact on various sectors of society such as Consumers., Borrowers, Agriculturists, Businessmen, Industrialist, etc. and it has impact on the transaction of assets purchase, exchange rates in international foreign exchange market and overall economic activities of the corporate world of the country.

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