

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1337

Answered on the 1st August, 2023/Sravana 10, 1945 (Saka)

Merger of Public Sector Banks

1337 # **Shri R. Girirajan:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the public sector banks would be merged or disinvested by the end of 2023-24;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to extend the quality services to common people particularly in rural areas;
- (d) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interests of bank workers and customers after the mergers; and
- (e) whether any private banks are interested to take over loss making banks in the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(DR. BHAGWAT KARAD)

(a) and (b): No sir.

(c) to (e): A number of steps have been taken to extend quality banking services to common people particularly in rural areas, including, inter-alia, the following:

- (i) Engagement of over 7.70 lakh Banking Correspondents (BCs), by scheduled commercial banks (including 2.11 lakh by PSBs) to provide customers easy access to services including in rural/backward and remote areas of the country.
- (ii) Issuance of RuPay cards to over 33 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna customers for improved digital access; and
- (iii) 7.34 crore Kisan Credit Cards outstanding as on Mar-2023 for enabling farmers to meet their production credit requirements in a timely and hassle-free manner.

Public at large have benefited from the amalgamation as the amalgamated bank is offering enhanced access to banking services through a stronger and larger network, greater financial inclusion of the underprivileged, wider and customised array of banking and other financial products and services, and improved digital experience through investments in technology. Employees have benefited through opening up of wider career and geographical opportunities, enhanced depth and breadth of employees' exposure and improved perquisites through harmonisation of benefits on best-across-banks basis, while ensuring that no employee has lost his or her job as a result of the amalgamation.

All public Sector banks are in profit during FY 2022-23 and declared net profit aggregating to Rs. 1.05 lakh crore.
