

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3425

Answered on Tuesday, April 01, 2025/ 11 Chaitra, 1947 (Saka)

**Zero balance accounts**

3425. Smt. Rekha Sharma:

Shri Narhari Amin:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the pace of Zero Balance Account opening in the last decade (2014-24) compared to the previous decade (2004-14) ;
- (b) the impact on the financial inclusion of vulnerable categories such as women, SCs, STs and OBCs;
- (c) whether the share of females in total household deposits has increased over the past decade relative to the previous decade; and
- (d) the steps taken to support financial inclusion?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India in year 2005, for achieving the objective of greater financial inclusion, advised all banks to make available a basic banking (BSBD Account) account with no minimum balance with objective of making such accounts accessible to vast sections of population. As on March 2014 the total number of Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts in the country were 24.3 crore with a deposit balance of Rs. 31,230 crores.

The Government initiated the National Mission for Financial Inclusion (NMFI), namely the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in August, 2014 to provide universal banking services for every unbanked adult based on the guiding principles of banking the unbanked, securing the unsecured, funding the unfunded and serving unserved and underserved areas. Launch of PMJDY marked a transformative shift in country's financial inclusion landscape.

A total of 55.08 crore Jan Dhan accounts with a deposit balance of Rs.2,61,077 crore have been opened till 14.03.2025. Out of these, 30.67 crore (55.8%) accounts have been opened by women.

PMJDY has been successful in increasing banking penetration and promoting financial inclusion across the country including vulnerable categories. To support financial inclusion, NMFIs have facilitated the coverage of each group of society including women with various social security and credit linked Schemes. To ensure accessibility of these schemes to women, rural population, marginalised groups and underprivileged communities in the country, various steps are being taken such as:

- (i) Allocation of targets to all banks under each scheme;
- (ii) Organisation of various camps and specialised campaigns to promote awareness;
- (iii) Periodic review of performance of banks etc;

All Banks, including Private Sector Banks, participate in these activities to ensure effectiveness of these schemes and make them accessible to all stakeholders.

Banks conduct camps from time to time at village level to promote awareness about various financial inclusion schemes and to enrol more people under these schemes.

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