GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1296
ANSWERED ON 30th JULY, 2026

FINANCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK

1296 DR. SATISH POONIA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by India Post Payments Bank in expanding financial inclusion through its newly launched SHG Savings Account for women-led Self Help Groups;

(b) whether Government has identified States and Union Territories for large-scale rollout of the scheme and the number of SHGs likely to benefit therefrom;

(c) the manner in which the extensive postal network is being utilised to provide accessible, paperless and doorstep banking services to SHGs; and

(d) the expected contribution of this initiative towards women empowerment, Digital India, rural entrepreneurship and inclusive economic growth?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)

(a) India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has launched SHG Savings Account for Self Help Groups (SHGs) which does not require any minimum initial deposit or maintenance of a monthly average balance. Since IPPB is a Payments bank, the maximum permissible end-of-day balance in the account is ₹2,00,000. The account also provides free cash deposit and cash withdrawal facilities, one free physical account statement every month, with no charges levied for account closure or issuance of a QR Card. These features make this account an important tool for financial inclusion of SHG women, and the spreading of awareness of these accounts amongst SHGs is a planned activity covering all the women-led SHGs across the country.

(b) & (c) SHG Saving Account facility of IPPB is available for all SHGs throughout the country through more than 1.64 lakh Post Offices.The Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks have been equipped with a smartphone and biometric device to provide banking Services like account opening, cash deposit / withdrawal etc. at the doorstep through biometric authentication. IPPB also trains female Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS) and postwomen to serve as effective financial educators. Individual SHG members can also avail Post Office Savings Bank (POSB), Postal Life Insurance (PLI)/ Rural PLI and other citizen centric services offered by the Department.

(d) Further, credit footprint through use of IPPB banking services on an individual level, access to secure deposit services of POSB, onboarding SHG members as Banking Correspondents (BCs) of IPPB & Postal Life Insurance (PLI) agents and leveraging the Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras (DNKs), parcel & logistics services of the Department for distribution of SHG products globally/nationally, is expected to promote women empowerment, Digital India, rural entrepreneurship and inclusive economic growth.

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