

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
LOK SABHA

UN-STARRED QUESTION No. 1332

TO BE ANSWERED ON 9 FEBRUARY 2018 (FRIDAY)/MAGHA 20, 1939 (SAKA)

Banking Services in Left Wing Extremism Districts

1332. SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts in Odisha have been excluded from coverage under the Jan Dhan Yojana in its first phase;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are any plans to include such areas in the second phase, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has made any efforts, across the various Ministries, to improve banking services in general as well as telecom connectivity in such areas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, including progress achieved in each LWE affected States particularly Odisha and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
(SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA)

(a) to (c) Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services in all States and districts, including Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts in the country.

(d) & (e) As per RBI's revised guidelines on banking outlets, dated 18.5.2017, at least 25 percent of the total number of banking outlets opened during a financial year should be opened in unbanked rural centres including such centres in LWE affected Districts.

Regarding telecom connectivity, as per Department of Telecommunications, the Government is implementing the flagship BharatNet project to link each of the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) of India through optical fiber network. All the LWE districts are to be connected through BSNL Optical Fiber under National Optical Fiber Net work (NOFM) by March 2019. Further, the Government has also commissioned over 2,000 mobile towers in 10 states affected by LWE.

The total number of GPs and those covered by bank branches/Business Correspondents out of these in LWE districts as on 31.12.2017 is at Annexure.

Annexure in reply to part (d) & (e) of the Lok Sabha Un-Starred Question no. 1332 for 9.2.2018 regarding Banking Services in Left Wing Extremism Districts

States in which LWE Districts are located	Total no. of Gram Panchayats in the LWE districts	No. of Gram Panchayats covered by bank branches/Business Correspondent in LWE districts (as on 31.12.2017)
Odisha	4124	3683
Madhya Pradesh	692	657
West Bengal	817	817
Maharashtra	1867	1867
Telangana	632	624
Jharkhand	2999	2998
Bihar	1456	1439
Uttar Pradesh	2207	2207
Andhra Pradesh	7947	7711
Chhatisgarh	2384	1983

Source: State Level Bankers' Committees