

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION No. 2326
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9 MARCH 2018 (FRIDAY)/PHALGUNA 18, 1939 (SAKA)

ATM Coverage

2326. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to permit more ATM transactions and to install ATM in post offices across the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether ATM coverage in rural areas of Kashmir is lower than the urban areas of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the effective steps taken or being taken to extend ATM coverage in rural areas?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) circular dated 14.8.2014, at least three ATM transactions per month are allowed free, for saving bank account-holder of one bank at the ATMs of other banks in six metro centres. At the locations other than six metro centres, saving bank account-holders of one bank are mandatorily provided with five free transactions per month at the ATMs of other banks. Beyond the prescribed minimum ATM transactions as advised by RBI, banks may decide on number of free ATM transactions.

Department of Posts apprised that it has installed 993 interoperable ATMs under its IT Modernization Project.

(c) & (d) As informed by State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC), Jammu & Kashmir out of total 2446 ATMs of Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Bandhan Bank, Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks) and Cooperative Banks, 1177 (48%) ATMs are in rural and semi urban area, as on 31.12.2017.

(e) SLBC, Jammu & Kashmir has informed that banks are laying lot of emphasis on coverage of rural areas as far as ATM deployment is concerned. To supplement the efforts of banks in providing banking services to people in the unbanked / under-banked areas, RBI has permitted non-bank entities to install and operate ATMs, known as White Label ATMs (WLAs), with greater focus on Tier III (population 20,000 to 49,999) to Tier VI centres (population less than 5000).
