

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

UN-STARRED QUESTION No. 4136

TO BE ANSWERED ON 10 AUGUST 2018 (FRIDAY)/ SHRAVANA 19, 1940 (SAKA)

Banking Systems

4136. SHRI JHINA HIKAKA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that many panchayats/blocks in tribal and backward areas are deprived of banking systems like ATMs etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to undertake any schemes to introduce/open new branches as well as other banking infrastructure; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), villages across the country have been mapped by banks into 1.59 lakh Sub-service Areas (SSAs), based on the criteria of 1000 – 1500 households. As informed by banks, out of total SSAs, 0.33 lakh SSAs are covered by bank branches and the remaining 1.26 lakh SSAs without bank branches have been covered with inter-operable Business Correspondents (BCs).

As per Reserve Bank of India's extant guidelines dated 18.5.2017 on "Rationalizing of Branch Authorisation Policy", general permission has been granted to domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) to open banking outlets at any place in the country without seeking prior approval of RBI in each case, subject to at least 25 percent of the total number of banking outlets opened during a financial year being in Unbanked Rural Centres (URCs) with population less than 10,000. For this purpose, banking outlets opened in any centre having population less than 50,000 in North Eastern states and Sikkim and also Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts, as notified by the Government of India are also considered as equivalent to opening of banking outlets in unbanked rural centres.
