

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 979

TO BE ANSWERED ON 8th FEBRUARY, 2019 (FRIDAY)/MAGHA 19, 1940 (SAKA)

Zero Balance Jan Dhan Accounts

979. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Jan Dhan accounts will remain operational in the absence of transactions and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether banks are recovering their charges from Jan Dhan accounts and debit charges from the deposit money continuously due to which balance of lacs of Jan Dhan accounts remained zero now;
- (c) if so, the status of zero balance Jan Dhan accounts; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to check such levy of charges arbitrarily recovered by the banks and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) to (d) As per Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Master Circular dated 1.7.2015 on Customer Service in banks, savings accounts including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts are treated as inoperative/dormant if there is no transaction in the account for over a period of two years.

Following RBI guidelines dated 10.8.2012, basic banking services are provided through Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts, including accounts opened under PMJDY, without any charges. As per extant guidelines of RBI, there is no requirement for maintaining minimum balance in such accounts.

As per the data sourced from banks, as on 23.01.2019, out of the total 34.03 crore PMJDY accounts, 5.06 crore accounts were having zero balance. However, depending upon transaction carried out by a Jan Dhan account holder, the balance in any Jan Dhan accounts can vary on day to day basis, and may even become zero on a particular day. In this regard, banks have further apprised that the percentage of zero balance accounts under PMJDY has declined from 58% as on 25.03.2015 to 15% as on 23.01.2019.
