

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 354

To be answered on Monday, June 24, 2019/Ashadha 3, 1941 (Saka)
Shortage of Bank Branches

354. SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is unaware of the acute shortage of bank branches in the rural areas throughout the country including the State of Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of new bank branches proposed to be opened by the Government during the current year and the next three years, State/District-wise including Haryana;

(c) whether the Government proposes to open bank branches in the villages throughout the country with a population of more than five thousand;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be opened; and

(e) the details of new bank branches opened throughout the country during each of the last five years, State/District-wise including Haryana?

Answer

The Finance Minister

(SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (d) As on 31.3.2018 there are 51,436 rural branches in the country, out of which 1646 are in the state of Haryana.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted general permission 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% of the total number of banking outlets [a fixed point service delivery unit, manned either by bank's staff or its Business Correspondent (BC)] opened during a financial year in unbanked rural centres.

To cover rural areas all across the country, 1.59 lakh Sub Service Areas (SSAs) have been created, where each SSA comprises of 1,000 to 1,500 households (approx. 4000 to 5000 population). Out of these SSA, 0.33 lakh rural SSAs are covered through bank branches and 1.26 lakh rural SSAs are covered through fixed location BC.

Further, an exercise based upon the Geographical Information System (GIS), a mapping exercise was undertaken by National Informatics Centre (NIC) to locate inhabited villages which are not having banking facility within a distance of 5 km. Out of 8622 identified locations, 7363 locations have been covered through deployment of BCs.

In addition to above, the requirement of new banking outlets as received from time to time are also discussed in meetings of the concerned District Level Consultative Committee (DLCC)/ State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) and based on the recommendations made, new outlets are opened by different banks.

(e) The details of new bank branches opened throughout the country during each of the last five years, State/UT-wise including Haryana are as per Annexure.

**Annexure as referred to in Part (e) of reply to the Lok Sabha question No. 354 for
24.6.2019 regarding "Shortage of Bank Branches"**

Number of Branches Opened by Commercial Banks - State/UTs -wise (01.04.2013 -
31.12.2018)

Sr. No.	States / UTs	Rural	Total Branches
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3	15
2	Andhra Pradesh	802	2608
3	Arunachal Pradesh	14	48
4	Assam	480	1014
5	Bihar	894	2251
6	Chandigarh	8	152
7	Chhattisgarh	745	1402
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6	17
9	Daman & Diu	1	5
10	Goa	59	144
11	Gujarat	721	2340
12	Haryana	1060	2509
13	Himachal Pradesh	425	547
14	Jammu & Kashmir	248	448
15	Jharkhand	281	802
16	Karnataka	1800	4827
17	Kerala	210	2706
18	Lakshadweep	0	2
19	Madhya Pradesh	525	2002
20	Maharashtra	879	3755
21	Manipur	32	84
22	Meghalaya	32	98
23	Mizoram	11	58
24	Nagaland	10	44
25	Nct Of Delhi	25	1008
26	Odisha	708	1468
27	Puducherry	18	79
28	Punjab	1157	2492
29	Rajasthan	1747	3936
30	Sikkim	25	51
31	Tamil Nadu	997	3510
32	Telangana	683	2282
33	Tripura	78	225
34	Uttar Pradesh	3093	6032
35	Uttarakhand	216	586
36	West Bengal	1170	2824
Total		19163	52371

Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)