

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3062

ANSWERED ON MONDAY, 20th MARCH, 2023/ PHALGUNA 29, 1944 (SAKA)

Use of UPI

3062. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU.:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to permit travellers from G20 nations to use the mobile-based Unified Payment Interface (UPI) to make payments while in India;
- b) if so, the details of the international airports where this facility is proposed to be provided, State/UT-wise especially in the State of Punjab along with the reasons therefor;
- c) whether the Government is planning to extend this facility to international passengers of more countries in the future and if so, the details thereof; and
- d) the likely benefits to accrue due to this extension of UPI services to international travellers by the Government for the economy of the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(DR. BHAGWAT KARAD)

(a) to (c): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, vide Circular No. RBI/2022-23/176 CO.DPSS.POLC.No.S-1907/02.14.006/2022-23 dated 10.02.2023, allowed access to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to foreign nationals and NRIs visiting India by enabling them to make payments using UPI while they are in India. RBI has updated its Master Directions on Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) accordingly. This facility has been extended to travellers from G-20 countries at select international airports (Bengaluru, Mumbai and New Delhi) for their merchant payments while they are in the country to test the traction of usage at centres hosting immediate G20 meetings, so as to gain experience and assessment and extend the facility across all entry points in the country. Further, an enhancement has recently been made by RBI to provide UPI access to NRIs who have international mobile numbers linked to their NRE / NRO accounts.

(d): The facility has been envisaged to help foreign nationals and NRIs to spend/ undertake transactions in a more convenient and easy way during their stay in India. Loading / Reloading of Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) issued to foreign nationals/ NRIs under the facility shall be against receipt of foreign exchange by cash or through any payment instrument. As the settlement of the transactions happens in INR, there would be increase in acceptance among merchants.
