

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2841.

ANSWERED ON MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022/PHALGUNA 30, 1943 (SAKA)

Branches of Banks in Gram Panchayats

2841. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to open the branches of Nationalised Banks in those Gram Panchayats which situated far from cities across the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to open the branches of Nationalised Banks in Ramgarh Berhna, Ghunwara, Singhpur, Khamharia, Tala Villages under Satna Parliamentary Constituency in Madhya Pradesh in which commercial activities are done at large scale; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the sanction is likely to be granted?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(DR BHAGWAT KARAD)

(a) to (c) In terms of the revised guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide circular on 'Rationalization of Branch Authorization Policy' No. DBR.BAPD.BC.69/22.01.001/2016-17 dated May 18, 2017, the term "Branch" has been substituted by "Banking Outlet (BO)" which includes both physical brick and mortar branches and Business Correspondent (BC) outlets to enable banks in expanding their network even in remote rural areas in a cost-effective manner for hassle free services to customers in rural areas.

In pursuance of extant RBI guidelines, rolling out of banking outlets in uncovered areas is a continuous process looked after by the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), in consultation with the concerned State Government, member banks and other stakeholders. Banks, *inter-alia*, consider proposals for opening banking outlets in the light of RBI's instructions, their business plans and their commercial viability. To further assess the viability for opening a banking outlet, banks carry out survey as required.

To ensure availability of banking outlet (Bank branch / Business Correspondent/India Post Payments Bank), within 5 kilometres of all inhabited villages, the Government has launched a Geographic Information System (GIS) based App., namely, Jan Dhan Darshak App (JDD App) developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC). Banks upload the GIS location of their branches, Business Correspondents (BCs) and Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) on the app.

As apprised by the State Level Bankers' Committee, Madhya Pradesh, there is no unbanked village in the Satna District of Madhya Pradesh. While Ghunwara, Singhpur and Tala villages are covered by 'Madhyanchal Gramin Bank', banking services in other villages viz; Ramgarh, Berhna Khamharia are provided through the Business Correspondents.
