

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3928
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2003
MAHILA BANK BRANCHES
BHUPENDRASINH PRABHATSINH SOLANKI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has instructed all the public sector banks to open special branches for women;
- (b) if so, the names of public sector banks which are not following the said instructions;
- (c) whether the Government propose to take some concrete steps to implement these instructions without further delay;
- (d) if so, the time by which it is proposed to be done; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL)

(a): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that they advised all lead banks on 7.6.2001 to identify potential centres in the districts where they had the lead responsibility and to open specialised women branches.

(b), (c), (d) & (e): The following public sector banks have set up Mahila Branches/converted existing branches to exclusively cater to the women entrepreneurs:

Name of Bank Number of Branches

Oriental Bank of Commerce	5
Allahabad Bank	1
Indian Overseas Bank	1
State Bank of Travancore	1
Union Bank of India	1
Vijaya Bank	1

Other public sector banks are exploring the feasibilities of opening specialised women branches. However, many of these banks have already opened women cells in their Head Offices/Regional Offices/Branches.