

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2637  
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2009  
LEAD BANK SCHEME  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a High Level Committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to review the functioning of Lead Bank Scheme has submitted its Report;
- (b) if so, the main recommendations thereof;
- (c) whether the RBI has chalked out any plans in consultation with banks in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (e): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its mid-term review of Annual Policy for the year 2007-08 had constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Usha Thorat, Deputy Governor, RBI to review the Lead Bank Scheme (LBS). The Committee has submitted its report in August, 2009 which is available on RBI website [www.rbi.oru.in](http://www.rbi.oru.in). In its report, the Committee has concluded that the LBS is useful and needs to continue. It has, inter alia, recommended that the scope of the LBS should cover initiatives for financial inclusion, financial literacy and an improved information system for reporting and monitoring progress. The Committee had focused its attention on urgent need for achieving 100% financial inclusion through penetration of banking services in the rural areas. The recommendations of the Committee are being examined by RBI with regard to the implementability within a specified time frame.