

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3862
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2009
SMART CARDS TO POOR
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to issue Smart Cards to the rural and urban poor in order to give them financial benefits;and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As part of financial inclusion drive, some banks have initiated certain pilot projects in different rural and remote parts of the country utilizing smart cards/mobile technology to extend banking services similar to those dispensed from branches. Reserve Bank of India has also urged banks to scale up their financial inclusion efforts by utilizing appropriate technology. It has advised banks to take adequate care in this regard to ensure that the solutions developed are highly secure, amenable to audit and follow widely accepted open standards to allow inter-operability among different systems adopted by the banks.