

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2782

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BANKS IN VILLAGES QUESTION

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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to strengthen the rural banking and to open branches of rural banks in various districts of the country and to inter-connect the existing branches of rural banks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the place-wise details of the rural banking branches set up in the country especially in the State of Maharashtra as on date;
- (d) the districts of Maharashtra where the branches of rural banks are proposed to be opened; and
- (e) the time by which the branches of these banks are likely to be established?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Namo Narain Meena)

(a) to (e):- As on June 30, 2012, there are 97,473 branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks(SCBs) functioning in the country, out of which 35,966 branches are in rural areas and 25,566 in semi-urban areas, which together constitute about 63% of the total bank branches.

In order to further extend the reach of banking to the rural hinterland, Banks, during 2010-12 have provided banking facilities to 74,194 habitations having a population in excess of 2000(as per 2001 census) by March, 2012 under `Swabhimaan` campaign, using the Business Correspondent model/branch/mobile van etc.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) further advised banks that while preparing their Annual Branch Expansion Plan, the banks should allocate at least 25 percent of the branches proposed to be opened during a year in unbanked rural centres with population upto 9999.

The State-wise number of branches (including the State of Maharashtra) of all Scheduled Commercial Banks, in the Rural areas as on 30th June 2012 is given in Annex.

Branch opening is a continuous process and is decided by the banks keeping in view their business plan, viability, profitability and availability of infrastructure among other aspects.