

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:747
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013
MOBILE BANKING FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS
Muttamwar Shri Vilas Baburao

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether mobile banking service is available across the country especially in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and bank-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to cover all the villages in the country through mobile banking in near future;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the manner and the time by which it is likely to be done; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure safety and security of employees and vehicles engaged in mobile banking?

Answer

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

(a) to (e):- In order to extend the reach of banking to the rural hinterland, banks were advised in 2010-11 to provide appropriate banking facilities to habitations having a population in excess of 2000 (as per 2001 census) by March, 2012 under 'Swabhimaan' the Financial Inclusion Campaign. By March, 2012 banking facilities have been provided to 74,194 such villages mainly through brick and mortar branches, business correspondents agents (BCAs) and mobile banking, etc.

The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) granted general permission in July, 2010 to domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks other than RRBs) to operationalize mobile branches in Tier 3 to Tier 6 centres (with population upto 49,999 as per Census 2001) and in rural, semi urban and urban centres in the North Eastern States and Sikkim, subject to reporting.

The scheme of mobile branch envisage the extension of banking facilities through a wellprotected van with arrangements for two or three officials of the bank sitting in it with books, safe containing cash, etc.