

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:77

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015

BANKING FACILITIES

Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy;Ray Dr. Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether banking facilities in the country are not adequate especially in the rural areas, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the norms/criteria laid down for opening of new bank branches in rural areas;
- (c) the number of bank accounts opened in the rural areas and the number of households in terms of percentage availing banking facilities in the rural areas having population of more than 2000 in the country, State/UT- wise;
- (d) the number of branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) presently functional in the rural and urban areas of the country, State/UT-wise and the number of branches of SCBs opened in the rural areas during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure banking facilities to each household of the country?

Answer

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 77 (17th Position) for 27th February 2015 by Dr. Ravindra Kumar Ray and Shri R. Dhruva Narayana regarding "Banking Facilities".

(a) to (b) As per Census 2011, 58.7 % households were availing banking facilities in the country. In order to extend the banking network in unbanked areas, general permission has been granted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) (other than Regional Rural Banks) to open branches (i) in Tier 2 to Tier 6 centres (with population upto 99,999) and (ii) in rural, semi-urban and urban centres of the North-Eastern States and Sikkim subject to reporting. RBI has advised banks that while preparing their Annual Branch Expansion Plan (ABEP), the banks should allocate at least 25 percent of the total number of branches proposed to be opened during a year in unbanked rural (Tier 5 and Tier 6) centres.

(c) to (e) To improve banking facilities and to cover all households with the facility of at least one bank account per household Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched on 28th August 2014 as a National Mission under which banks were given target to carry out surveys in allocated Sub Service Areas (SSAs) and Wards and to open accounts of all uncovered households by 26.01.2015.

PMJDY has been successful in achieving its targets. As on 28.01.2015, 12.31 crore accounts have been opened out of which 7.37 crore accounts are in rural areas and 4.94 crore in urban areas. Deposits of Rs.10217.43 crore have been mobilized. 10.85 crore RuPay Debit cards have been issued. 99.98 % of surveyed households have now got the facility of at least one bank account. No. of State/ UT-wise rural accounts opened in the Yojana as on 28.01.2015 is given in Annexure – 1.

The number of functioning branches of SCBs in rural and urban areas State-wise for the last three years and current year is enclosed in Annexure-2.