

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3338
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014
ONLINE FINANCE FACILITATION CENTRE
Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently launched an Online Finance Facilitation Centre (OFFC) to facilitate easier finance to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the salient features of OFFC; and
- (c) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide credit facilitation support to SMEs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): No Sir, However, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has recently set up 'Online Finance Facilitation Centre (OFFC) with an objective to provide advisory and credit facilitation support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

(c) To increase credit facilitation support to the MSE Sector, Government has taken various measures which inter-alia includes:

- i) Reorientation of SIDBI to act as a credit facilitator and provide support services in the areas like venture capital, loans syndication, market linkages, promoting factoring services.
- ii) Electronic tracking of MSE loan applications.
- iii) Banks to adopt IBA approved Common Application Form for loans upto Rs.25 lakhs
- iv) Lead banks to open MSME specialised branches and devise suitable schemes in cluster/location specific industry groups for greater credit flow.
- v) To assist young potential budding entrepreneurs/individuals in starting their business and to encourage entrepreneurship as an alternative avenue to job seeking, SIDBI, in September 2012, launched the website www.smallB.in which acts as virtual mentor and handholding tool.
- vi) SIDBI has set up Credit Advisory Centres (CACs) in partnership with cluster level industry associations on a pan India basis. So far 306 clusters have been covered across the country under this initiative and direct interactions have been held with more than 9000 MSME units since setting up of CACs.