

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4719
ANSWERED ON MONDAY, JULY 22, 2019/ASHADHA 31, 1941 (SAKA)

BANK BRANCHES IN RURAL AREAS

4719. MS. ANNPURNA DEVI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether even now only 11 per cent branches of the Government banks and other banks are in rural areas which do not meet the requirement of agricultural development;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reason due to which the number of bank branches in rural areas of the country could not be increased; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

- (a) to (d) No Sir. As apprised by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), total number of bank branches of commercial banks across the country as on 31.3.2019 was 1,46,932, out of which 51,653 bank branches (35.15%) are in rural areas. Further, the number of rural branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) has increased from 41,823 in March 2014 to 51,653 in March, 2019. Number of Branch less mode / Business Correspondents (BCs) of SCBs in rural areas has also increased from 3.37 lakh in March, 2014 to 5.15 lakh in March, 2018. Besides, 42,583 ATMs as on March, 2019 are providing banking services in rural areas.
