

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 60

Answered on Tuesday, February 2, 2021/ 13 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

Appointment of Bank Mitras

60. Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has appointed Bank Mitras to facilitate the banking services to the people of rural, urban and metro areas;
- (b) if so, the number of Bank Mitras in the country, State-wise;
- (c) the remuneration they are getting per month from the banks or agencies appointed by the banks;
- (d) the negotiating terms and conditions set by NABARD with the banks for these Bank Mitras; and
- (e) whether all the terms and conditions are fulfilled by the banks?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) As per extant guidelines dated 18.5.2017 on rationalisation of Branch Authorisation Policy, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted general permission to domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) to open banking outlets at any place in the country, without seeking prior approval of RBI in each case subject to at least 25 percent of the total number of banking outlets opened during a financial year being in unbanked rural centres i.e. centres having population less than 10,000 (Tier 5 and Tier 6 centres).

A 'Banking Outlet' for a Domestic Scheduled Commercial Bank, a Small Finance Bank and a Payment Bank is a fixed point service delivery unit, manned by either bank's staff or its Business Correspondent (BC).

As informed by RBI, as on 30.3.2020, a total of 9.58 lakh BCs are working in the country. State-wise data of BCs is at Annexure.

As per RBI's master circular dated 1.7.2014 on 'Branch Authorisation', banks are permitted to formulate a policy for engaging BCs with the approval of their Board of Directors. Further, the terms and conditions governing the contract between the bank and the BC are required to be defined in written agreements and subjected to a thorough legal vetting.

(d) & (e) NABARD has informed that it is not involved in negotiating with the banks with respect to terms and conditions for Bank Mitras.

Annexure as referred in reply to in part (b) of the Lok Sabha unstarred Q. No. 60 for answer on 2.2.2021	
State-wise data of Domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks (including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) but except Small Finance Banks (SFBs) & Payment Banks (PBs) as on 31.3.2020	
State	No. of Business Correspondents
Andaman and Nicobar Island	56
Andhra Pradesh	26405
Arunachal Pradesh	561
Assam	10181
Bihar	148510
Chandigarh	471
Chhattisgarh	42668
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	353
Daman & Diu	377
Delhi	15238
Goa	258
Gujarat	27838
Haryana	22146
Himachal Pradesh	3887
Jammu & Kashmir @	1853
Jharkhand	45758
Karnataka	25214
Kerala	7710
Lakshadweep	1
Madhya Pradesh	76540
Maharashtra	61916
Manipur	1855
Meghalaya	423
Mizoram	195
Nagaland	335
Orissa	32612
Puducherry	258
Punjab	23779
Rajasthan	75557
Sikkim	193
Tamil Nadu	38393
Telangana	24008
Tripura	3284
Uttar Pradesh	159092
Uttarakhand	6106
West Bengal	74555
Grand Total	958586

Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

@ Including UT of Ladakh