

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION No. 938**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8 FEBRUARY 2019 (FRIDAY)/MAGHA 19, 1940 (SAKA)

**Opening of Bank Branches at Naxal Hit Areas**

938. SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a decision was taken by the Union Government to open the branches of the nationalized banks at 150 places in 8 naxalite affected districts in collaboration with the State Government of Chhattisgarh and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of places of the above said districts in which the branches/ Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) have been opened in compliance with the said decision as on date;
- (c) the names of the places of the remaining districts in which the branches/ ATMs of banks are yet to be opened; and
- (d) the time by which the branches/ ATM facility of the remaining banks are likely to be provided?

**Answer**

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance**  
**(SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA)**

(a).to (d) As per extant guidelines dated 18.5.2017 on rationalizing of Branch Authorisation Policy, 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 (a fixed point service delivery unit, manned by either bank's staff or its Business Correspondent) opened during a financial year being in unbanked rural centres with population less than 10,000. For this purpose, banking outlets opened in any centre having population less than 50,000 in North Eastern states, Sikkim and also Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts as notified by the Government of India are also considered as equivalent to opening of banking outlets in unbanked rural centres.

With a view to expand the banking services in Left Wing Affected districts, State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) of various states including Chhattisgarh were requested to draw a roadmap for expansion of banking activities in these districts. Pursuant to the above and as informed by SLBC Chhattisgarh, 96 bank branches and 11 ATMs have been opened by banks in the state as on 31.12.2018.

In pursuance of RBI guidelines, rolling out of banking outlets in uncovered areas is a continuous process and looked after by SLBC, in consultation with the concerned State Government, member banks and other stakeholders. Banks consider proposals for opening banking outlets in the light of RBI's instructions, their business plans and their commercial viability. To further assess the viability for opening a banking outlet, banks carry out survey as required.

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