

Lending for minorities under priority sector

2067. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prescribed a specific percentage of lending of public sector banks for minorities under priority sector lending.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether each of the banks have achieved the targets in this regard for the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof bank-wise, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) if not, what action Government propose to take to ensure that targets are achieved by every bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No specific target of lending by Public Sector Banks to minorities has been prescribed. However, under the extant guidelines of Reserve Bank of India, banks have to ensure the credit is made available to the members of minority communities in an adequate measure not only in the 41 districts identified by the Government of India as having concentration of minority communities, but also in the country as a whole. Data showing the flow of credit by banks to minority communities in all the districts in the country as well as in the 41 identified districts for the years ending March 1996, 1997 and 1998 is as under:

Priority sector credit to minorities in all the districts in country

Period year ended March	No. of Accounts (in lakhs)	Balance outstanding (in Rs. crores)
1996	64.44	7916.24
1997	62.28	8670.85
1998	62.96	9858.26*

* Provisional

Priority sector credit to minorities in 41 identified districts

Period year ended March	No. of Accounts (in lakhs)	Balance outstanding (in Rs. crores)
1996	12.71	1313.31
1997	13.23	1558.19
1998	13.02	1753.61*

* Provisional

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

First and second generation reforms

2068. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what has been the outcome of 'First Generation Reforms';
- (b) what are the objectives of the 'Second Generation Reforms'; and
- (c) how Government propose to achieve this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The economic reforms initiated in the last few years have had a favourable impact in terms of acceleration in overall growth of the economy, build up of a comfortable foreign exchange reserve position, lower rate of inflation and a substantial inflow of foreign capital.

(b) and (c) The goal of economic reforms is "faster growth with employment and equity". To this end, the steps being contemplated include the setting up of an Expenditure Commission, tax reforms, reforms of banks and financial institutions, a programme for rural connectivity, a National Health Policy, a water policy, renewed thrust on information technology and promoting efficiency of investments in the infrastructure sectors.