

(b) the classification of these credit card holders according to the period of non-repayment of the credit amount; and

(c) the steps being taken by the banks to recover the arrears of payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the total number of credit card holders as on 30.9.1998, were 7,44,324 and the amount involved in non-repayment of credit provided by the Nationalised Banks to credit card holders stood at Rs. 16,323.07 lakhs as on 30.9.1998.

(b) The RBI has reported that the classification of these credit card dues as on 30.09.1998, was as under:

No. of cardholders	Amount in Lakhs of Rs.	
Below 6 month	28,349	2508.79
Above 6 months and upto one year	18,837	2454.88
Above one year	49,707	11359.40
	96,893	16323.07

(c) The RBI has reported that in order to recover the credit card arrears the banks have generally been taking the following steps:—

- (i) Reminders by phones/letters are issued to the cardholders about their dues.
- (ii) Marketing Managers/Recovery agents are appointed by some of the banks to contact the card holders.
- (iii) Letters informing the cardholders about their liabilities and consequences like hot listing, legal action etc. are issued.

(iv) In case of continuing defaults, cards are hot listed, legal notices are served, intervention of employers of defaulting cardholders is sought.

(v) if there is not response to legal notice, summary suits are filed.

(vi) After obtaining orders from the court, warrants of attachment of movables are executed.

(vii) Recovery camps are conducted to recover the dues through negotiated settlements.

LIC branch in Ladakh Region of Jammu and Kashmir

1460. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir has no LIC branch office despite giving Life Insurance Corporation a huge business;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to remove this disparity and to facilitate the people there by opening an LIC branch office in Leh;

(c) if so, when decision to that effect would be taken; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) does not have a Branch Office in the Ladakh Region of Jammu and Kashmir. LIC has reported that they would consider opening a Branch Office in Ladakh Region during the financial year 1999-2000.