

under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 to convert existing extension counters into full fledged branches subject to certain conditions. Guidelines in this regard have been issued to UCBs on November 13, 2006.

For new branches/licences, RBI has informed that only upon completion of review of each State in regard to the progress of restructuring of UCBs, it would permit new branches/licences.

Opening of regional centre of Sahitya Academy in Patna

†*299. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present four regional centres of Sahitya Academy are functional in Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no regional centre of the academy has so far been opened in Hindi-Urdu speaking areas; and

(c) if so, by when Government will take the necessary decision on opening a regional centre of Sahitya Academy in Patna (Bihar) while considering the demand?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. Sahitya Academy has its Regional Offices at Bangalore, Mumbai and Kolkata. It has a Sub-Regional Office in Chennai under its Regional Office, Bangalore.

(b) No, Sir. The Sahitya Academy's Head Office located in New Delhi takes care of the languages of Northern India including Hindi and Urdu.

(c) At present there is no proposal to open a Regional centre of Sahitya Academy in Patna.

Supply of gas to co-operative societies

*300. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of localities where piped cooking gas connections have been given in each of the Metro cities in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.