

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines issued from time to time, it is mandatory for all scheduled commercial banks, including State Bank of Patiala, to update the passbooks on an on-going basis.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, updating of passbooks is sometimes affected temporarily when the passbook printer is not functional due to technical reasons. In such circumstances statement of account can be issued to the customers to avoid inconvenience. Standby printers are also provided by banks at the Controlling Offices for meeting such contingencies at branches.

Saving-cum-Lending Programme for SHGs

2964. SHRI K.P.K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the innovative Saving-cum-Lending Programme for Self-Help Groups sponsored by NABARD in collaboration with the Postal Department has been launched;

(b) if so, what are the field reports so far;

(c) whether as per original plan, two districts in Tamil Nadu were selected and how many other districts in Tamil Nadu have been selected for the Second Phase; and

(d) when will the entire State of Tamil Nadu be covered under this Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The innovative Saving-cum-Lending Programme for SHGs sponsored by NABARD in collaboration with the Postal Department has been launched on 15 December, 2006. The Programme aims to utilize the vast network of the Department of Posts and the networking potential of the rural postman to extend the outreach of credit. As the scheme has been launched recently, it is too early to assess its impact.

(c) and (d) The pilot phase is being implemented in 2 districts viz.

Padukottai and Shivganga in Tamil Nadu. In the second phase it will be implemented in Tiruvannamalai. Depending upon the project's success in these two districts, NABARD will consider extending the programme to other districts of the State and the country as a whole.

Services rendered by PSUs to Government departments

2965. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 133 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) made sales/ rendered services worth Rs. 71,033 crore to Government department;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the details of goods/services rendered to Government departments together with their rates etc.—goods/ services-wise;

(c) whether the goods/services purchased by Government department from PSUs are available in the open market at cheaper rates; and

(d) if so, the reasons for purchasing the same at higher rates from PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The sales/ services of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to different customers including Government Departments relates to day-to-day activities of these enterprises. As per available information during 2004-05, 132 CPSEs had made sale to Government departments amounting to Rs. 71027.09 crore.

(c) and (d) The Government Departments/Organizations/CPSEs may make purchases from the open market as per competitive prices by following the laid down procedures, if any, in this regard. However, in order to provide level playing field or enabling the CPSEs to utilize the created capacities by them particularly by loss making/sick enterprises the Government has introduced a Purchase Preference Policy under which the Government Departments/Organizations/CPSEs are required to make purchases from CPSEs at lowest valid bid price (L1 price) if the price quoted by the supplying CPSE is within 10% of the L1, other things being equal.