

fertilizer subsidy, Department of Fertilizers has not initiated discussions with the State Governments to route payments through banks.

In order to extend the reach of the banks in the rural hinterland, various measures are being taken by the Government of India and the RBI. The Government of India has directed banks to draw up roadmaps for extending banking facilities to all rural habitations with a population over 2000 by March, 2012. The banks will leverage the use of technologies to extend these services to areas without bank branches through the Business Correspondent (BC) model. The banks have been advised to select their technologies for branchless banking through the BC mode, procure the required hardware/software, identify their business correspondents' State wise and roll out their financial inclusion plans in a time bound manner.

Earlier, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had advised banks to provide the facility of 'no-frills' accounts with 'nil' or very low minimum balances as well as charges that would make such accounts accessible to a vast section of the population. The 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) requirements for opening these bank accounts have also been relaxed since August, 2005.

Health care services in the country

†*124. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to poor health care services in various parts of the country, a large number of people are dying every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to include health care services in the Concurrent List for monitoring the services in various States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the Sample Registration System of the RGI Census of India, Crude Death Rate in Himachal Pradesh in 2008 was 7.4, which is the same as the national average. At the national level, the Crude Death Rate has declined from 8.0 in 2003 to 7.4 in 2008 thereby indicating a decline in untimely deaths.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. As per the Constitution of India, health is a State subject and primary healthcare is in the domain of the Local Governments. The National Health Policy, 2002, also lays emphasis upon the implementation of public health programmes through local self Government institutions. However, Government of India launched the National Rural Health Mission in 2005 to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to strengthen the Public Health System and provide quality and affordable health care to the rural population.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.