

Average rural population per bank office in different States

*163. DR. RAJAT KUMAR

CHAKRABARTI:

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA

BURAGOHAIN:

SHRI KRISHNA BAHADUR

CHETTRI:

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average rural population per bank office in different States at present; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to bring about uniform coverage of rural population by the banks?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

All the branches of commercial banks serve the population including rural population if any, within their areas of operation. While, for this reason, it is not possible to indicate precisely the average rural population per bank branch in different States, available State-wise data which shows rural population per rural commercial bank branch as at the end of June 30, 1976 is set out in the *Annexure* (See below).

In the post nationalisation period, in pursuance of the Government's policy, banks have been opening branches at as many centres as possible in the unbanked/underbanked rural and semi-urban areas of backward regions so as to reduce inter-district and inter-State disparities in the matter of provision of banking facilities. As a result of this policy, in the post-nationalisation period, the underbanked/backward States have witnessed a faster rate of expansion

of branch network than the other better banked States. The number of rural branches of commercial banks has increased from 1860 as on the eve of bank nationalisation to 7458 as at the end of March 1976. As a proportion of the total bank branch net-work, the rural branches accounted for 36 per cent in March, 1976 as compared to 22 per cent on the eve of bank nationalisation. The accent on opening of more branches in rural areas of underbanked/backward regions is being continued. The setting up of Regional Rural Banks is also expected to accelerate the branch expansion in rural areas of backward/underbanked regions.

Annexure

Average rural population per bank office as on 30th June, 1976

Name of State/Union Territory	Average Population per bank office (in thousands)
1. Andhra Pradesh	63
2. Assam	116
3. Bihar	122
4. Gujarat	29
5. Haryana	36
6. Himachal Pradesh	19
7. Jammu & Kashmir	31
8. Karnataka	27
9. Kerala	33
10. Madhya Pradesh	82
11. Maharashtra	61
12. Manipur	133
13. Meghalaya	66
14. Nagaland	93

Name of State/Union Territory	Average population per bank office (in thousands)
15. Orissa	108
16. Punjab	19
17. Rajasthan	55
18. Tamil Nadu	52
19. Tripura	116
20. Uttar Pradesh	83
21. West Bengal	104
22. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	30
23. Arunachal Pradesh	45
24. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	19
25. Chandigarh	12
26. Delhi
27. Goa, Daman & Diu	6
28. Lakshadweep	8
29. Mizoram	NA
30. Pondicherry	23
ALL INDIA	57

Export target of handloom goods

*164. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the export target of handloom goods for the year 1976-77; and

(b) what is the break-up of the items covered under this export target?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI

VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) The targets for export of Handloom products proposed for 1976-77 are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

I. Cotton

Fabrics	36.00
Madeups	14.00
Garments	100.00

II. Non-Cotton

Silk and Woollen	18.00
	168.00

Foreign exchange for students Studying abroad

†*165. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange is not allowed to students who intend to go abroad for the pursuit of their undergraduate studies;

(b) whether Government have made an exception in the case of students planning to work for an undergraduate degree at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to do away with this exception and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b) Under the current regulations foreign exchange is released normally for post-graduate studies abroad. Exception, however, has been made in the case of (i) students taking up under-graduate studies for which facilities at first degree level are not available in this country; (ii) students taking up Tripos Courses at Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

†Transferred from the 11th August, 1976. (Previously numbered as Starred Question No. 45).