

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has informed that they have no information to furnish in the matter at present.

Extension of PPF Scheme

1455. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a senior citizen who is a Central Government pensioner having a saving Bank account in Andhra Bank in Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, a township in NCR has requested vide his letter dated 6 January, 2010 to the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs to extend the PPF scheme, 1968 to so far uncovered public sector banks like Andhra Bank, which has also been followed by Andhra Bank Head Office to allow the scheme in their bank;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Ministry, so far, in the matter; and

(c) the reasons for delaying the extension of the scheme to the public sector banks so far not covered and by when order in this regard are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

Proposals from banks for authorization to transact business in Public Provident Fund (PPF) Scheme, 1968 and Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS), 2004 are considered on the basis of the past track record of the bank in handling Government financial transactions. A proposal from Andhra Bank for authorization of its 418 identified branches to transact in the PPF Scheme, 1968 and SCSS, 2004 has been received and sent for verification of the past experiences with Andhra Bank in handling Government financial business. The proposal will be further processed as soon as the report about their past track record regarding handling Government financial business is received.

Deaths due to poor hygienic Practice

1456. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 600 million people in India defecate in the open, as they do not have the facility of toilets, as per the report released by WHOUNICEF;

(b) whether it is also a fact that open defecation leads to deadly diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases, and contributes to poor hygiene which kills hundreds of thousands of people every year;

(c) whether it is a failure on the part of Government that sufficient basic necessities such as toilets are not being provided to its citizens; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to minimise such unhealthy practice in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Yes.

(b) Open defecation can cause contamination of water especially in post-monsoon season or in flood prone areas which can lead to outbreak of water borne diseases such as acute diarrhoeal diseases, cholera, enteric fever and viral hepatitis.

(c) and (d) Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India administers the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a comprehensive programme to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas. The main components under the programme are incentives for individual Household Latrines (IHHL), School Sanitation and Hygiene Education (SSHE), assistance for Community Sanitary Complex, Anganwadi toilets and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM). Presently, TSC is being implemented in 607 rural districts of India. The sanitation coverage in rural areas was 21.9% as per census 2001. With the successful implementation of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), the sanitation coverage in rural areas has increased to approximately 67% as of October 2010. Similarly, Ministry of Urban Development seeks to ensure that basic services such as water supply and sanitation are provided to the urban poor under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

Patient Safety and Infection control standards for Hospitals

1457. SHRI P. RAJEEV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evolved a coherent and stringent patient safety and infection control standards for all Government and private hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;