Statement

The latest ratings affirmed by Sovereign Credit Rating Agencies

Name of the rating agency	Date of affirmation of ratings	Foreign Currency		Local Currency	
		Ratings	Outlook	Ratings	Outlook
S&P	05.04.2011	BBB- (LT) A-3 (ST)	Stable	No ratings given.	
Fitch Ratings	21.06.2011	BBB- (LT) F3 (ST)	Stable	BBB-	Stable
DBRS	23.06.2011	BBB (low) (LT)	Stable (changed from -ve)	BBB (low) (LT)	Stable (changed from -ve)
Moodys'	17.08.2010	Baa3	Stable	Bal (upgraded from Ba2)	positive
JCRA	20.10.2010	BBB+	Stable	No ratings given.	
R&I	14.06.2011	BBB+ (LT) a-2 (ST)	Stable	No ratings given.	

LT-Long Term

ST-Short Term

Requests for opening of branches of PSBs

3593. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received for opening of branches of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) from various States;

(b) whether the PSB propose to expand their network particularly in interior areas with modern facilities like internet banking, Automated Teller Machines etc; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Branch Authorisation Policy, general permission has been granted to domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks (other than RRBs) to open branches/ mobile branches/ Administrative Offices/CPCs (Service Branches), (i) in Tier 3 to Tier 6 centres (with population up to 49,999) and (ii) in rural, semi-urban and urban centres of the North-Eastern States and Sikkim subject to reporting. Opening of branches by these banks in Tier 1 and Tier 2 centres (centres with population of 50,000 and above) requires prior approval of RBI except in North Eastern States and Sikkim. Banks apply for authorisations for opening of branches in Tier 1 and Tier 2 centres in their Annual Branch Expansion Plan. The authorisations issued to banks for opening of branches in various States during the year April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 are given in Statement *(See* below).

RBI has advised banks that while preparing their Annual Branch Expansion Plan (ABEP), the Banks should allocate at least 25 percent of the total number of branches proposed to be opened during a year in unbanked rural (Tier 5 and Tier 6) centres. As per RBI guidelines, Scheduled Commercial Banks have been given general permission to install off-site Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)/Mobile ATMs at the location of their choice without the prior permission of RBI, subject to reporting.

Statement

The authorisations issued to banks for opening of branches in various states

Sl. No.	States	No. of Authorisations Issued to banks for Opening of Branches during April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011
1	2	3
1	Andaman & Nicobar	1
2	Andhra Pradesh	287
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	4

1	2	3
5	Bihar	93
6	Chandigarh	18
7	Chhattisgarh	34
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9	Daman & Diu	0
10	Delhi	176
11	Goa	4
12	Gujarat	136
13	Haryana	97
14	Himachal Pradesh	5
15	Jammu & Kashmir	15
16	Jharkhand	48
17	Karnataka	168
18	Kerala	49
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	79
21	Maharashtra	389
22	Manipur	0
23	Meghalaya	0
24	Mizoram	0
26	Nagaland	0
26	Orissa	56
27	Pondicherry	5
28	Punjab	105
29	Rajasthan	105
30	Sikkim	0

1	2	3
31	Tamil Nadu	168
32	Tripura	2
33	Uttaranchal	27
34	Uttar Pradesh	210
35	West Bengal	158
	TOTAL	2439

Source: RBI.

Increase in external debt of the country

†3594. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of external debt on the country has been continuously increasing from the financial year 2008-09 to the end of 2010-11;

(b) if so, the annual rate of increase of this debt amount during each year of the period;

(c) whether this amount is more than the annual rate of increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP); and

(d) if so, the difference between the above rates during each year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Details of India's external debt and its annual growth rate, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at market prices (at current prices) and its annual growth during the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 is given below:

Year	External Debt (Rs. crore)	Increase in External Debt over previous year (per cent)	GDP at market price (Rs. crore)	Increase in GDP over previous year (per cent)
2008-09	1142125	27.3	5582623	12.0
2009-10	1179096	3.2	6550271	17.3
2010-11	1366117	15.9	7875627	20.2

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.