

Financial Institutions (DRT) Act, 1993 and Central Registry of Securitisation Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest of India (CERSAI), which has been operationalised *w.e.f.* 31st March, 2011.

Issuing of new banking licences

2199. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banking licences are set to be issued shortly in the country by Government;

(b) if so, the criteria likely to be followed by Government in issuing new banking licenses;

(c) whether Government would prefer issuing licences through auction in order to keep complete transparency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including total number of such licences issued so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (d) The Finance Minister, in his budget speech on February 26, 2010, announced that granting new licenses to private sector players would be considered by the Reserve Bank. With a view to examining the need, if any, to issue revised guidelines for bank licensing, a discussion paper — marshalling the international practices, the Indian experience as also the extant ownership and governance guidelines — was prepared by RBI and placed on its website for wider comments and feedback in August, 2010. After examining the comments/suggestions received, RBI has issued draft guidelines for licensing of new banks in the private sector on 29.08.2011. RBI has informed that it would issue the final guidelines after taking views/suggestions of various stakeholders.

Operation of ATMs through private operators

†2200. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a policy to operate ATMs through private operators; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) As per the extant branch authorization policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), general permission has been granted to all the Scheduled Commercial Banks to install ATMs/Mobile ATMs at the location of their choice and the banks are not required to take prior permission of RBI for setting up of ATMs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.