

The Interest Subvention Scheme is being implemented by the Government of India since 2006-07 to make short-term crop loans upto Rs. 3 lakh for a period of one year available to farmers at the interest rate of 7 percent per annum. The Government of India has since 2009-10 been providing additional interest subvention to farmers who repay in time. The additional subvention was 1% in 2009-10, 2% in 2010-11 and 3% in 2011-12. The Government has in the Budget speech of 2012-13 announced continuation of the scheme in 2012-13.

The KCC Scheme has been revised in May, 2012 and banks have been advised to issue Kisan Credit Cards to all eligible farmers.

Villages without banks

1274. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 74,414 villages with population above 2,000 were identified as unbanked, which were allocated to various banks for providing banking services by March, 2012;
- (b) if so, whether this has been achieved; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Banks were advised in 2010-11 to prepare a roadmap for providing banking services by March, 2012 to villages with a population above 2,000, as per 2001 census, in the country. Under the roadmap, 74,398 villages with population above 2,000 were identified, which were allocated to various banks, including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), for providing banking services. Banks have covered 74,194 of these unbanked villages by March 31, 2012 through branches, Business Correspondents, Mobile Banking etc.

Focus of insurers on urban areas

1275. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has been expressing its concern that State-owned insurers have preferred to focus on urban areas at the cost of semi-urban and rural potential markets;