

Allocation for Schemes under Demand No.36 (known as Demand No.35 till 2012-13) is made by the Planning Commission at the time of finalization of Annual Plans of States, within the overall availability of resources and plan priorities. Planning Commission takes into account the aspect of inter-State equity in allocation of resources while finalizing the State Plan Allocation.

Proper banking infrastructure in 78 identified districts

4400. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the Public Sector Banks to ensure proper banking infrastructure in the 78 identified districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has asked these Public Sector Banks to set up ATMs in each of these districts and also provide debit cards to all the beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Banks have been advised to strengthen the banking infrastructure, particularly in the uncovered areas, on priority in the districts identified for Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT), through Branches/Business Correspondents, etc.

Pursuant to the Budget Announcement 2013-14, Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have also been advised to ensure installation of onsite ATMs at all their branches by 31.03.2014.

PSBs have further been advised to issue Debit Cards to the beneficiaries under the various schemes identified for rollout of DBT, so that they are able to draw the benefit from ATMs as per their convenience.

Writing off of loans by bankers

†4401. SHRI MOTILAL VOHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.