

Banking business by Department of Posts

1603. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Department of Posts is entering into banking business with a view to make available banking services to the rural masses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) while banking is already spread into the rural areas how far the Postal Department will compete with banks and sustain in the present scenario; and
- (d) instead of encouraging Postal Banking, whether it is not worth to strengthen the existing banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHRIMATI KRUPARANI KILLI):

(a) and (b) Sir, the Department of Posts has applied for a banking license to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for setting up a Post Bank as a separate entity. The Department of Posts has unmatched presence in rural areas of the country and it is proposed to utilize this reach for making banking services available to the rural areas by the proposed Post Bank.

(c) and (d) Before applying for the banking license, Department had engaged the services of a Banking Professional Consultant to assess the viability of the proposed Bank taking into consideration the competitive scenario of other banks and its sustainability in the long run. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) has established the viability and sustainability of the proposed Post Bank.

Preferential market access policy

1604. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had cleared a Preferential Market Access (PMA) Policy in 2012 as part of a strategy to develop indigenous capability in electronics;

- (b) if so, the details of the objectives of the PMA Policy;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the PMA policy has come in for sharp criticism by foreign companies and trade associations;
- (d) if so, whether Government has now decided to put on the same on hold; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) The policy for providing preference to domestically manufactured electronic goods was notified *vide* the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) Notification No.8(78)/2010-IPHW dated 10.2.2012. The scope of the Policy is with respect to the following two areas:

- (i) Procurement by all Ministries/Departments (except Defence) and their agencies for electronic products purchased for Governmental purposes and not with a view to commercial resale or with a view to use in the production of goods for commercial sale.
- (ii) Electronic product or products having security implications.

In Government procurement, the policy will be applicable to all Ministries/ Departments (except Defence) and their agencies for electronic products purchased for Governmental purposes. The extent of Government procurement from domestic manufacturers shall not be less than 30% of the total procurement value of notified electronic product or products. Domestically Manufactured Electronic Products are required to meet the specified graded domestic value-addition in terms of Bill of Material (BOM) from domestic manufacturers. The Government has thus far issued detailed notifications for 23 telecom products and 6 electronics/IT related products for which preference to domestic manufacturers is to be provided in Government procurement. Both Indian and foreign companies manufacturing electronic products in India are entitled to the preference to domestic manufacturers under the policy.

(c) to (e) Several representations were received by the Government both in favour of and against the policy, especially in relation to its applicability to electronic products having security implications. After considering the pros and cons of alternative approaches to handling security related products, the Government has decided to review the policy. Further, it has been decided that no notification under the policy with regard to procurement in private sector, of products having security implications be issued till such a review is completed.

Postal distribution zones in north-eastern region

1605. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of postal distribution zones in the North-Eastern Region including Sikkim, State-wise;

(b) the number of areas that fall in each such postal distribution zone, especially in Sikkim; and

(c) the details thereof along with the number of postmen deployed in these States during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHRIMATI KRUPARANI KILLI):

(a) Department of Posts does not have any Postal Distribution Zones in the country. However, delivery of mail is done through the delivery post offices across the country. The number of Delivery Post Offices in North-Eastern Region (State-wise), including Sikkim, are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) The average area falling in each Delivery Post Office in North-Eastern region including Sikkim, State-wise is given in above Statement.

(c) The number of postmen and other delivery staff employed in the Delivery Post Offices in the North-Eastern States during last three years and current year are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).