

Tax benefits for companies hiring ex-servicemen

1279. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes as a part of Government programme, to grant tax incentives/benefits to companies who agree to hire retired/released Armed Forces veterans;

(b) if so, by when this is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(c) Tax incentive is not granted for employing any particular category of employees. However, to incentivise employment in general, section 80JJAA of the Income-tax Act provides for deduction to an Indian company engaged in manufacture of goods, of an amount equal to 30% of additional wages paid to new regular workmen employed by the company, subject to the conditions specified therein.

Vigilance clearance of IRS officers

1280. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 23 July, 2013 a news was published in the Times of India regarding the direction given by Central Information Commission (CIC) to CVC to disclose the information on IRS officers regarding vigilance clearance, in relation of pending inquiry;

(b) if so, the status of these officers; and

(c) the number of officers against whom the inquiry is pending and the nature of offence committed by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Banking facilities in the country

1281. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched schemes to give greater access to banking in terms of both Geographical spread and services;

(b) the details of States where more than 50 per cent of the populated area does not have banking facilities; and

(c) the comparative record of private banks in priority sector lending *viz-a-viz* public sector banks during the year 2012 and first six months of 2013?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per 2011 Census, 58.7% households in the country are availing banking services and in 9 States viz. Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha and West Bengal, less than 50% of households were availing banking services.

In order to extend the reach of banking, Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are taking various initiatives.

- Banks were advised in 2010-11 to provide appropriate banking facilities to habitations having a population in excess of 2000 (as per 2001 census) under "Swabhimaan" Financial Inclusion Campaign. Banking facilities have been provided to more than 74,000 such villages through brick & mortar branches, business correspondent agents (BCAs) and mobile banking.
- RBI has permitted domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding RRBs) to open branches in Tier 2 to Tier 6 Centres (with population upto 99,999 as per census 2001) without the need to take permission from RBI in each case, subject to reporting.
- RBI has advised Domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks that while preparing their Annual Branch Expansion Plan (ABEP), they should allocate at least 25% of the total number of branches proposed to be opened during a year in unbanked rural (Tier 5 and Tier 6) centres.

RBI has reported that the performance of Public and Private Sector Banks in 2012 and 2013 as regards priority sector lending is as under:

(Amount in Rs. crore)				
Year	Public Sector Banks		Private Sector Banks	
	Amount Outstanding	% of ANBC	Amount Outstanding	% of ANBC
March, 2012	11,29,993	37.4	2,86,419	39.4
March, 2013	12,82,212	36.2	3,27,406	37.5
September, 2013 (Provisional)	13,33,752	33.0	3,27,461	30.9
ANBC (Adjusted Net Bank Credit)				