

Department of posts entering into banking services

†547. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to establish Post Bank of India by converting the wide network of post offices spread across the country into commercial banks, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Department of Posts had expressed its intention before the Government of entering into banking services in the rural areas during a discussion on the suggestions of a task force constituted on India Post; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action plan made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The Government does not propose to convert the wide network of post offices spread across the country into commercial banks. The proposed Post Bank of India is envisaged as an independent entity.

(b) During the discussions on the suggestions put forward by task force constituted for leveraging the Post Office Network, the Department of Posts expressed the view that it is ready to enter into the banking space with focus on rural areas.

(c) Based on a consideration of all relevant aspects, the Department of Posts has submitted an application to Reserve Bank of India seeking License for setting up a Payments Bank as an independent entity.

Subscribers base of MTNL, Delhi

548. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the subscribers base of MTNL in Delhi, both in landline and mobile network, in the last five years;

(b) whether the number of subscribers registered with MTNL Delhi is coming down; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and efforts made to increase the subscribers of MTNL?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.