

(c) if so, the details thereof and is there any foolproof mechanism through which such defaulters are identified and barred from getting loans again from the PSBs; and

(d) whether Government has received any representation from peoples, representatives regarding such thing happening in banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (d) Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not devised any new policy to prohibit banks from extending loans to defaulted borrowers even if they have paid the full loan amount to the banks. However, RBI has formulated a policy *vide* its Master Circular on wilful-defaulters updated on 1st July, 2015, by which no additional facilities are to be granted by the bank to the listed willful defaulters. In addition, the entrepreneurs/promoters of companies where bank has identified siphoning/diversion of funds, misrepresentation, falsification of accounts and fraudulent transactions are to be debarred from institutional finance from the scheduled commercial banks, Development Financial Institutions, Government owned NBFCs, investment institutions etc. for floating new ventures for a period of 5 years from the date the name of the willful defaulter is published in the list of willful defaulters published by Credit Information Companies (CICs).

In genuine cases of small borrowers including agriculture borrower, whose accounts were settled by RBI/Government initiated OTS scheme or settlement due to unavoidable/inescapable business failures, Banks consider bankable proposals as per norms.

The mechanism for identifying such defaulters of the Bank/other PSBs is done by verifying the Credit history of customers as provided by CICs, before sanctioning any loan. As per RBI guidelines every SMA-2 accounts of ₹ 5 crore and above is reported to RBI through CRILC which is shared among bankers and before sanctioning a loan banks refers to CRILC reports also. No such representation has been received by the Government.

Introduction of plastic currency notes

2614. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in February, 2014 had decided to introduce plastic currency notes on a field trial basis in five cities;

(b) if so, the present status in this regard;

(c) whether certain technical problems have cropped up in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by when the plastic currency notes are likely to be introduced all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in consultation with the Government has decided to conduct a field trial with plastic banknotes at five locations of the country. Towards this, RBI issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) in October, 2013 and subsequently re-floated the same in June 2014 with revised technical parameters.

(c) and (d) Due to non-availability of security clearances of some entities in the bids, RBI could not take forward the procurement process. Thereafter, Government advised RBI on November 30, 2015 to procure plastic notes through open tender process.

Credit flow to agriculture sector

2615. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment/study has been made by Government for the estimated credit flow to the agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has any concrete data regarding the agriculture sectors borrowing needs and capacity, if so, the details thereof;

(c) what according to Government is a good credit/GDP ratio for agriculture in the long run and the steps taken to achieve the same; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for further financial deepening and financial inclusion, in agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The agriculture credit target during XII Five Year Plan period (2012-17) is guided by the estimation made by the Working Group on Outreach of Institutional Finance, Cooperatives and Risk Management and as considered by the Steering Committee of the Planning Commission. As per this estimation, the ground level credit to agriculture during the XII plan period is likely to be in the range of ₹ 33,89,261 crore to ₹ 42,08,454 crore.

Government fixes agriculture credit disbursement targets for the banking sector every year and banks have consistently surpassed these targets. The details of agriculture credit targets fixed by the Government and the achievement by the Banks, for the last three years (2012-13 to 2014-15) and during the current year (upto 30.9.2015), are given in the Statement (*See below*).