

(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*).

(c) As reported by NABARD, total GLC in agriculture as a proportion to GDP in agriculture in the country was 11.47% in 2000-2001. The ratio has shown substantial growth since 2001 to reach almost 43% in 2014-15. However, there may not be any ideal level of the ratio.

(d) Government has taken the following steps to increase the Agriculture GDP through institutional credit and financial inclusion in agriculture sector:-

- As per RBI's extant guidelines on Priority Sector Lending (PSL), all Domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks have been mandated to earmark 18% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or Credit Equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure (OBE), whichever is higher, as on the corresponding date of the previous year, for lending to Agriculture. Foreign banks with 20 branches and above have to achieve the Agriculture target within a maximum period of five years starting from April 1, 2013 and ending on March 31, 2018.
- With a view to ease the burden of interest on farmers, the Government implements Interest Subvention Scheme so as to make short-term crop loans upto ₹ 3 lakh for a period of one year available to farmers at the interest rate of 7% per annum and in case of timely repayment, the same gets reduced to 4%.
- In order to ensure that all eligible farmers are provided with hassle-free and timely credit for their agricultural operations, the Government has introduced the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, which enables them to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, etc. and draw cash to satisfy their agricultural and consumption needs.
- The KCC Scheme has since been simplified, which has the provision of ATM enabled debit card with, *inter alia*, facilities of one-time documentation and built-in cost escalation in the limit, etc.
- Under the Interest Subvention Scheme of Government, post-harvest loans against Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs) provided by banks to Small Farmers/Marginal Farmers having Kisan Credit Card (KCC), are also available at the interest rate of 7% per annum for a period of upto six months, in order to discourage distress sale of produce by small and marginal farmers.
- To bring small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, etc. into the fold of institutional credit, Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) have been promoted and financed by banks.

- Banks have been advised by RBI to waive margin/security requirements of agricultural loans upto ₹ 1,00,000/-.
- In order to provide relief to borrowers in times of natural calamities, RBI and NABARD have issued standing guidelines for relief measures to be provided by respective lending institutions in areas affected by natural calamities which, *inter alia*, include identification of beneficiaries, restructuring of existing loans, extending fresh loans, relaxed security and margin norms, etc.

Statement

Agriculture Credit Target and Achievement

2012-13

(₹ in crore)

Agency	Crop Loan		Term Loan		Total	
	Target	Achvt.	Target	Achvt.	Target	Achvt.
Commercial Banks	2,20,000	3,14,950.64	2,00,000	1,17,540.29	4,20,000	4,32,490.93
Cooperative Banks	69,000	1,02,592.46	15,000	8,610.84	84,000	1,11,203.30
Regional Rural Banks	56,000	55,957.36	15,000	7,724.03	71,000	63,681.39
TOTAL	3,45,000	4,73,500.46	2,30,000	1,33,875.16	5,75,000	6,07,375.62

2013-14

Commercial Banks	3,20,000	3,64,164.25	1,55,000	1,63,341.86	4,75,000	5,27,506.11
Cooperative Banks	1,00,000	1,13,574.02	25,000	6,389.77	1,25,000	1,19,963.79
Regional Rural Banks	80,000	70,696.91	20,000	11,955.81	1,00,000	82,652.72
TOTAL	5,00,000	5,48,435.18	2,00,000	1,81,687.44	7,00,000	7,30,122.62

2014-15

Commercial Banks	3,75,000	4,15,735.77	1,65,000	1,88,640.05	5,40,000	6,04,375.82
Cooperative Banks	1,10,000	1,30,350.31	30,000	8,119.19	1,40,000	1,38,469.50
Regional Rural Banks	90,000	89,325.89	30,000	13,157.02	1,20,000	1,02,482.91
TOTAL	5,75,000	6,35,411.97	2,25,000	2,09,916.26	8,00,000	8,45,328.23

2015-16 (up to September 2015)*(**₹ crore**)

Agency	Crop Loan		Term Loan		Total	
	Target	Achvt.	Target	Achvt.	Target	Achvt.
Commercial Banks	4,00,000	2,39,755.65	1,90,000	1,16,716.36	5,90,000	3,56,472.01
Cooperative Banks	1,05,000	84,990.49	35,000	3,287.51	1,40,000	88,278.00
Regional Rural Banks	90,000	51,550.49	30,000	7,561.38	1,20,000	59,111.87
TOTAL	5,95,000	3,76,296.63	2,55,000	1,27,565.25	8,50,000	5,03,861.88

* Provisional data

Source: NABARD

Opening of office of Customs and Central Excise at Rudrapur, Uttarakhand

†2616. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that it was decided to open the office of the Commissioner for Customs and Central Excise at Rudrapur in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether Government is also aware of the fact that CONCOR depot has also been operationalised at Sidkul in Rudrapur;

(c) if so, the details of the reasons for not opening the office of the Commissioner for Customs and Central Excise in Rudrapur so far; and

(d) by when the office of the Commissioner will be opened, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) An application from SIDCUL CONCOR Infra Company Ltd. (SCICL) for setting up of Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Pant Nagar, Uttarakhand is under process for issue of notification under section 7 of the Customs Act, 1962.

(c) and (d) In view of reply to part (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Release of compensation to Chhattisgarh

†2617. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chhattisgarh's share in the Central Commercial Taxes for the period from 2010 to 2014 which have been reduced to 2 per cent after deducting compensation have not been received; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.