

Requests for assistance from SDF

*73. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests were received from the sugar mills of Jharkhand and Gujarat seeking assistance from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the number of requests received, approved, pending, and the funds sought and allocated along with the reasons for pendency?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Postal Bank of India

*74. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is setting up Postal Bank of India;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives thereof and the details worked out so far, State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(c) the funds allocated and spent so far, branch-wise, and the parameters adopted to set up such a Bank in each area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Department of Posts is setting up India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) with 100% Government Equity. RBI gave 'In-principle' approval to set up the India Post Payments Bank on 07.09.2015 and the Cabinet has approved the proposal of Setting up of India Post Payments Bank on 01.06.2016 with a direction to complete the roll out of all IPPB branches and their linkage with all post offices across the country by September, 2017.

(b) (i) The aims and objectives of the proposal are as follows:

- To promote financial inclusion in every corner of the country through the combined network of the Bank and the Post Office (access points)
- Provide simple financial products like current and savings accounts, payments and remittances and facilitate easy access to