

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

third party financial products such as credit, insurance, mutual funds, pensions etc.

- Bringing a large number of individuals and small businesses into formal banking channel, with a special focus on under banked and marginalized sections of the society and the citizens of rural areas.
- (ii) Details worked out so far: The payments bank will leverage the physical and IT infrastructure of the post office and be set up on a lean operating model. It will focus on low-cost, low-risk, technology based solutions to extend access to formal banking especially in rural and under-banked areas. It will set up one Headquarter and upto 650 branches co-located in District HQ post offices. All the post offices in the district will be linked to the respective IPPB branch in the district. Thus, after complete roll-out, approximately, 1.55 lac post offices will become the physical access points for the IPPB.
- (iii) Exact State-wise details are yet to be finalized, however generally one IPPB branch will be set up in each district of the States including the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telengana and all post offices in the districts will be linked to the respective IPPB branches.

(c) ₹ 150 cr. has been allocated in BE 2016-17 for setting up of the IPPB. Pre-operationalisation expenses of ₹ 71,51,152/- has been incurred so far. Most of the expenditure towards technology architecture, equity infusion, etc, will be centralized. Bank branch wise fund allocation for operationalization would be worked out subsequently. IPPB will set up one Headquarter and upto 650 branches co-located in district HQ post offices. All the post offices in the district will be linked to the respective IPPB branch in the district.

Sale of Rail Neer at railway stations

*75. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are allowing only Rail Neer packaged drinking water brand at its stations and on trains and not the packaged drinking water of other brands; and

(b) whether only one litre bottles of Rail Neer are being sold and not 500 ml. as other brands do and thus, leaving no choice with the passengers but to go for one litre bottle, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Except for a few identified trains and stations where Rail Neer is to be mandatorily supplied,