

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) implements an interest subvention scheme for short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Besides 2% interest subvention given to banks so that they lend the short-term crop loan upto ₹ 3.00 lakh @ 7% p.a., additional 3% incentive is given to the farmers for prompt repayment of the loan, reducing the effective rate of interest to 4%. The interest rate for medium/long-term loans is fixed by the banks as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.

Extention of banking facilities for the rural population

†2976. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the percentage of Indian population still without access to banking services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken by Government to provide access to banking services by all such people; and

(c) the number of Panchayats in Bihar which do not have any banks and the efforts being made by Government to provide for the rural population an access to banking services in order to promote cashless or digital economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Banks were asked to carry out surveys in allocated Sub Service Areas (SSAs) in rural areas and in wards in urban areas, by 26.1.2015, of households covered in terms of having a bank account. Survey data reported by banks showed that 99.9% households out of 21.22 crore surveyed households were covered under PMJDY.

Bank Mitras have been deployed in SSAs to provide access to banking services.

(c) The office of Convener, State Level Bankers' Committee, Bihar has informed that there are 4,598 Panchayats in Bihar which do not have a bank branch.

Banks are committed to promote digital payments through seeding of bank accounts on a voluntary basis with Aadhaar and mobile numbers, promoting the usage of RuPay cards, and imparting financial literacy. Through this, accountholders get access to Aadhaar-enabled, mobile-based and card-based payment options.

Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) has been launched, which supports payments on both smartphones and feature mobile phones.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.