

Use of amount charged on non-maintenance of minimum bank balance

†408. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount recovered by various banks from bank account holders who failed to fulfil an obligation to maintain the minimum balance of rupees five thousands in their accounts;
- (b) the details thereof, bank-wise and recovered amount-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a large number of bank account holders have resorted to close their accounts in view of such charges being recovered from them;
- (d) whether the amount recovered by banks under *ibid* heads is being used for social schemes or used in self interest; and
- (e) the number of accounts closed subsequent to introduction of such a rule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Based on information received from 21 Public Sector Banks, only IDBI Bank Ltd. is having the requirement of minimum average balance of ₹ 5,000 in Savings Bank account (excluding Basic Savings Bank Account, Small Accounts and Pension accounts) only in metropolitan areas. IDBI Bank Ltd. has informed that during the financial year 2016-17 ₹ 88.23 crore have been recovered from Savings Bank account holders not maintaining minimum average balance.

(c) and (e) Public Sector Banks have informed that no such incident is reported.

(d) As informed by IDBI Bank Ltd., minimum average balance charges are levied primarily to recover part of cost incurred by the bank.

Quality control and food testing laboratories in the country

409. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals received and approved by Government for setting up of new Quality Control/Food Testing Laboratories in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the funds allocated by Government for the upgradation of existing Quality Control/Food testing Laboratories in the country;

(c) the subsidies provided by Government to organizations for setting up new Quality Control/Food Testing Laboratories in the country and the details thereof;

(d) whether the Quality Standards set by laboratories are at par with International Quality Standards, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) A Central Sector Scheme for "Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country Including Provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs" approved by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during 2016-17 to 2018-19 with an outlay of ₹ 481.95 crore, has been rolled out by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The Scheme *inter-alia* envisages strengthening of State Food Testing Laboratories & referral labs, one of the objectives is to enable State Food Laboratories to achieve NABL accredited. However, there is no provision in the scheme for funding private laboratories.

(c) FSSAI does not provide any subsidy to organizations for setting up new Quality Control/Food Testing Laboratories.

(d) and (e) FSSAI notifies only those food testing laboratories which are compliant to ISO17025 which is an International Standard for accreditation of testing laboratories. These laboratories rely upon the standards for various food product categories prescribed in Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011; which are also available on FSSAI's website www.fssai.gov.in. Setting standards for food testing is a continuous process; it is an endeavour of FSSAI to continuously benchmark these standards, with those of international standards. Further, FSSAI Manuals of Methods of Analysis & Testing of various foods in Food Processing Industries adopting validated methods from different international agencies are available and continuously adopted.

Studies on impact of clinical trials

410. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any studies to find out the impact of clinical trials and introduction of new drugs for treatment of various ailments and diseases in the country, if so, the details thereof;