

Guidelines for Financing of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) of 'Bhoomi Heen Kisan'

In terms of Union Budget 2014-15 it had been declared that 5 lakh Joint Liability Groups (JLG) of 'Bhoomi Heen Kisan' will be financed through NABARD. RBI has issued guidelines to all scheduled commercial banks in this regard *vide* circular FIDD. CO.FSD.BC.42/05.02.02/2014-15 dated November 13, 2014. One of the main objectives of financing through JLGs is to augment flow of credit to landless farmers cultivating land as tenant farmers, oral lessees or share croppers and small/marginal farmers as well as other poor individuals taking up farm activities, off-farm activities and non-farm activities. As on 31st March, 2017, cumulatively 24.53 lakh Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) have been provided ₹ 26,848.13 crore loan by banks across the country.

Agriculture Ground Level Credit flow for Small and Marginal Farmers

The share of Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) accounts in total number financed by all agencies grew from 60.07 per cent in 2015-16 to 72.06 per cent in 2016-17. More importantly, in terms of amount disbursed, the share of SMFs grew from 41.51 per cent (in 2015-16) to 50.14 per cent (in 2016-17). In actual terms, the agri credit disbursement towards SMFs grew from ₹ 3.80 lakh crore in 2015-16 to ₹ 5.34 lakh crore in 2016-17, while the number of SMF accounts grew from 5.40 crore to 7.71 crore during this period.

Facilities under Adarsh Railway Station Scheme

*77. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have embarked on providing various passenger facilities at various stations that have been identified as Adarsh Railway Stations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the district-wise details of the stations identified under this scheme in the State of Jharkhand;

(c) whether it is a fact that CAG has pointed out the deficiencies of facilities under this scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to rectify the defects and provide adequate facilities at these stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Upgradation of amenities at stations is a continuous and on-going process. Works relating to provision/augmentation of various passenger amenities at stations are taken

up under Plan Head 53—'Passengers Amenities'. In addition, passenger amenities are also provided as part of Plan Head 16—'Traffic Facility' and Plan Head 17—'Computerisation' etc. At present, stations are also upgraded under 'Adarsh Station Scheme'. Selection of Railway stations for inclusion under the 'Adarsh Station Scheme' is based on an identified need for upgradation of amenities at stations. Adarsh stations are provided with additional basic facilities such as improvement to the facade, waiting room, landscaping of circulating area, signage, pay and use toilets, platforms, foot over bridge, water coolers, passenger reservation system etc.

(b) 1253 stations including 30 stations in the State of Jharkhand have been identified for development under this scheme. District-wise details of stations are not maintained. List of 30 stations in the State of Jharkhand identified for development under Adarsh Station Scheme is as under:—

Jharkhand (30) Bokaro, Chakradharpur, Chakulia, Chandrapura, Chittarajan, Daltonganj, Deoghar, Dhanbad, Dumka, Garhwa Road Jn., Gomoh Jn., Jagadishpur, Jasidih, Lohardaga, Madhupur, Pakur, Parashnath, Phusro, Ranchi, Sahibganj, Silli, Tatanagar, Tori, Latehar, Barwadih, Bokaro Thermal, Katrasgarh, Giridih, Gumia and Gola Road.

(c) and (d) Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG)'s Report No.13 of 2016 (Railways) has mentioned about the deficiencies in few passenger amenities viz. Pay and Use toilets, Signages, Waiting Rooms with TV and bathing facilities for Upper Classes/other classes at some stations developed as Adarsh Stations.

The norms for provision of amenities under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme were first introduced in 2009 which were later revised in August, 2013. The comparison of amenities to be provided as per norms of 2009 *vis-à-vis* norms of 2013, is tabulated below:—

Sl. No.	Amenities	As per norms of 2009 issued under Board's letter No.2009/TG-IV/10/PA/Adarsh Stns. Dated 17.09.2009	As per norms of 2013 issued under Board's letter No.2009/TG-IV/10/PA/ Adarsh Stns. Dated 13.08.2013
1	2	3	4
1.	Pay and Use Toilets	To be provided at 'A1' to 'E' category	To be provided at 'A1' to 'E' category
2.	Signages	To be provided upto 'D' category	To be provided upto 'E' category

1	2	3	4
3.	Waiting Rooms with TV and bathing facilities for Upper Classes	Not included in identified amenities	To be provided at 'A1' and 'A' category
4.	Waiting Rooms with TV and bathing facilities for other Classes	Not included in identified amenities	To be provided at A1, A and B category with bathing facility.

In the revised guidelines of 2013, it was also mentioned that these guidelines shall be effective for only those 'Adarsh' stations which were identified in the year 2013-14 and onwards.

The Audit has noticed deficiencies in the following four amenities:-

- (1) Pay and Use Toilets
- (2) Signages
- (3) Waiting Rooms with TV and bathing facilities for Upper Classes
- (4) Waiting Rooms with TV and bathing facilities for other Classes.

For item (1) it is stated that wherever Pay and Use Toilets are not feasible, departmental toilets are to be provided as per extant guidelines for provision of amenities under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme. For item (2), Audit has also noticed deficiencies of signages at E category stations, which were identified under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme before 2013 and hence provision of signages was not stipulated. In respect of items (3) and (4) above, it is stated that barring two stations, all other stations were identified prior to 2013 and therefore were not required to be provided with these two facilities.

Creation of separate tower company under BSNL

†*78. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), a profit making Government undertaking has installed 70,000 towers with its own expenses;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.