

and about ₹ 3.8 lakh crores less high denomination notes (2.5 per cent of GDP) in circulation post-demonetisation, as of 19th January, 2018. The Survey observed that there has been a substantial increase in digitalization across all categories. And even though the immediate post-demonetization surge has moderated in some cases, the level and pace of digitalization are still substantially greater than before demonetization.

Conceptualization of 59 minutes loan for MSME

2103. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the persons who conceptualized 59 minutes loan for MSME;

(b) the details of experts/committee/Government officials who examined and finalised the modalities;

(c) whether it is a fact that 59 minutes loan for MSME is being facilitated by a private website, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons/criteria of selecting a private website for facilitating loans; and

(e) the details of safeguards against data theft/leak of MSME applying for loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Recommendations made during the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) Manthan held in November, 2017 involving Whole Time Directors (WTDs), General Managers (GMs) of PSBs and senior officials from Government resulted in a reforms agenda aimed at Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE). The concept of a contactless loan platform evolved as part of EASE of financing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) based on “enhanced due diligence, better risk management and faster turnaround time for Loan Applications” through use of financial technology (Fin Tech). The digital platform so conceptualized involved linking of distributed data points through a consent based architecture to facilitate faster decision making.

The project was a collaborative effort of several Public Sector Banks (PSBs)/ Financial Institutions (FIs) and their associate companies who finalised the modalities of implementation. Committees comprising of WTDs, Heads of Departments, GMs and Deputy General Managers (DGMs) of PSBs, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and their associate companies assessed various options, with external valuation at various stages.

(c) The 59 minutes loan for MSMEs is facilitated through www.psbloansin59minutes.com, an online lending portal run by “Online PSB Loans Limited”, a public limited

company wherein 6 PSBs and FIs alongwith their associate companies hold 54% majority stake and majority seats (4 out of 7) on the Board.

(d) After exploring alternative options, a group of bankers from SIDBI and PSBs opted for acquisition of majority stake in an existing Fintech company to achieve desired objectives of a near ready platform and operational team within desired timelines. A multi stage selection and filtering process was accordingly carried out by SIDBI and PSBs to select the Fin Tech with desired capabilities. The criteria for short listing included, *inter alia*, boot strapped companies, MSMEs focussed operations, automated and digitised appraisal process, vintage, management capability and experience, IT capability, lending platform/algorithm, etc.

(e) Security Audit of the platform has been conducted by independent agencies and the data security aspects are maintained at highest standards by a dedicated team. The platform has a privacy policy hosted on the home page of the website and a system certification *i.e.* ISO 27001 has been put in place for ensuring information security.

Jan Dhan accounts opened in Kerala

2104. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total number of accounts opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana in the State of Kerala, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): As apprised by banks, district-wise number of accounts opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in Kerala as on 19.12.2018 is provided below:—

District Name	PMJDY Accounts
Alappuzha	230554
Ernakulam	334689
Idukki	146366
Kannur	271534
Kasaragod	136173
Kollam	315044
Kottayam	174806
Kozhikode	326766
Malappuram	339615