

directors and other authorised signatories of companies availing loan facilities of more than ₹ 50 crore. Heads of PSBs have also been empowered to request for issue of Look Out Circulars (LOCs).

Roadmap for PSBs growth and consolidation

2563. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a roadmap for public sector banks (PSBs) for the next five years in terms of growth and consolidation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government held discussion with the chiefs of PSBs; and
- (d) if so, the deliberations made in the meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) to (d) With regard to growth, it is stated that the Finance Minister, in her speech on the budget for the financial year 2019-20 has stated: "Having addressed legacy issues, Public Sector Banks are now proposed to be further provided 70,000 crore capital to boost credit for a strong impetus to the economy." Accordingly, provision of ₹ 70,000 crore for capital infusion in banks is part of the budget proposal.

With regard to consolidation, it is stated that the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts of 1970 and 1980 provide that the Central Government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), may make a scheme, *inter alia*, for the amalgamation of any nationalised bank with any other nationalised bank or any other banking institution. Various committees, including Narasimhan Committee (1998) constituted by RBI, Leeladhar Committee (2008) chaired by RBI Deputy Governor, and Nayak Committee (2014) constituted by RBI, have recommended consolidation of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) given underlying benefits/synergies. Taking note of this and potential benefits of consolidation, Government, with a view to facilitate consolidation among PSBs to create strong and competitive banks, serving as catalysts for growth and having an improved risk profile, approved an approval framework for proposals to amalgamate PSBs through an Alternative Mechanism (AM). After consideration by AM and the Boards of Directors of Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank (with the Boards of Bank of Baroda and Vijaya Bank giving in-principle approval and the Board of Dena Bank recommending amalgamation), and after obtaining RBI inputs, Government notified the scheme of amalgamation, amalgamating Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank into Bank of Baroda with effect from 1.4.2019. No proposal is presently before the AM for its consideration.

Government holds discussions with chief executives of PSBs on a continuing basis on a variety of subjects such as performance of the bank, banking reforms, financial inclusion, customer ease, etc.

PSBs branches in rural areas for success of PMJDY

†2564. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of accounts opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in Gujarat till date, district-wise;
- (b) amount of money collected under PMJDY till now, State-wise; and
- (c) the efforts made by Government to increase the branches of Government sector banks in rural areas for making PMJDY more successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) and (b) Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), account holders are provided banking services free of charge and without any requirement of maintaining minimum balance. The information provided by banks, district-wise number of accounts opened under PMJDY in Gujarat as on 03.07.2019 is given in the Statement-I (*See below*). State-wise details of deposit balance in PMJDY as on 03.07.2019 are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has rationalized its Branch Authorisation Policy and granted general permission to domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks), including Public Sector Banks, to open banking outlets (a fixed point service delivery unit, manned by either bank's staff or its Business Correspondents) at any place in the country, without seeking prior approval of RBI in each case, subject to at least 25 per cent of the total number of banking outlets opened during a financial year being in unbanked rural centres (Tier 5 and Tier 6 centres *i.e.* having population less than 10,000). For this purpose, banking outlets opened in any centre having population less than 50,000 in North Eastern states and Sikkim and also Left Wing Extremism (LAVE) affected districts as notified by the Government of India are also considered as equivalent to opening of banking outlets in unbanked rural centres.

Under PMJDY Scheme all villages were mapped into 1.59 lakh Sub-Service Areas (SSAs) where one SSA catering to 1,000 to 1,500 households. As informed by banks, while 0.33 lakh SSAs have been covered with bank branches, 1.26 lakh SSAs have been covered by deployment of interoperable Bank Mitras.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.