

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 875
ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2021/ 20 MAGHA, 1942 (SAKA)

RuPay card to beneficiaries of PMJDY

875. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a total of 3.82 crore beneficiaries have been added under the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) from December 2019 to December 2020;
- (b) whether it is a fact that each beneficiary has to be provided with RuPay Card while only 89 lakh persons were given the card during the said period;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) has been discontinued for RuPay cardholders; and
- (d) if so, by when Government is planning to restart the MDR and provide RuPay card to 100 per cent beneficiaries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (d) As informed by banks, the number of accounts opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) during the calendar year 2020 is 3.82 crore.

PMJDY guidelines envisage issue of RuPay debit card to Jan Dhan account holders. Issuance of RuPay debit cards to Jan-Dhan account holders by banks is an ongoing process. Number of RuPay cards issued to PMJDY account holders increased from 29.73 crore in December 2019 to 30.62 crore in December 2020.

As informed by Department of Revenue, Section 269SU in the Income Tax Act, 1961 and Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 were inserted through The Finance (No. 2) Act, 2019. It provides that no Bank or system provider shall impose any charge upon a person making or receiving a payment through electronic modes prescribed under Section 269SU of the Act. Subsequently, vide notification G.S.R 960(E) dated 30.12.2019, rule 119AA was notified in the Income Tax Rules, 1962 prescribing modes of payment for the purpose of Section 269SU. RuPay Debit Card is one of the prescribed modes of payment.

Further, vide Circular 32 of 2019 dated 30.12.2019, it was clarified that any charge, including the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR), shall not be applicable on or after 01.01.2020 on payment made through prescribed electronic modes. There is no proposal to restart the MDR on RuPay Debit Card transactions.
