

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 247

Answered on Tuesday, February 4, 2025/ 15 Magha, 1946 (Saka)

CSR spending by PSBs

247# DR. BHIM SINGH:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that various Public Sector Banks (PSBs) spend money under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the most backward, SC/ST dominated areas of the country; and
- (b) if so, the details of the CSR amount spent district-wise, scheme-wise in the State of Bihar during the last five years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b): Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are established under the State Bank of India Act, 1955 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/80 and are not companies incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013(Act) or under any previous company law. As such, the provisions of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mentioned in Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 are not applicable to PSBs. However, PSBs undertake CSR related activities as per Reserve Bank of India's guidelines and bank Board approved policy in this regard.

The CSR spending by PSBs includes expenditure on various activities that are not attributable to specific locations and are spread across the country with multiple organisations supporting pan-India projects, such as Swachh Bharat Kosh, National Sports Development Fund, Clean Ganga Fund, PM's National Relief Fund, etc. and therefore, the full CSR expenditure State-/ Union Territory-/ district-wise cannot be apportioned.

The major CSR activities on which the PSBs spend funds across the country, *inter- alia*, include the following:

- (i) Rural and slum development;
- (ii) Providing safe drinking water, sanitation, etc.;
- (iii) Healthcare & Education, including employment enhancing vocational skills;
- (iv) Enabling environmental sustainability— afforestation, rainwater harvesting etc.; and
- (v) Welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes, minorities and women.

As per the information received from PSBs, they have spent Rs. 100.94 Crore on CSR in the State of Bihar during the last five years, i.e from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24.
