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Title: Regarding opening of bank branches in Aspirational Districts of Odisha including Bolangir Parliamentary Constituency-laid.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR):

The people across Aspirational districts of Odisha are facing economic hardships due to severe lack of access to banking facilities. They are not able to take full benefits of Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) schemes like MGNREGS, Jan Dhan Yojana etc. There are hundreds of unbanked Gram Panchayats in Odisha. Many Gram Panchayats have single bank branch which is unable to meet the demands of the people and has inadequate staff, infrastructure, and facilities. People have to travel several Kilometres to avail basic banking services. Such situations are common across aspirational districts of Odisha.

Considering this grim situation, there is urgent need for augmenting banking coverage to unbanked areas inhabited by tribals in these Aspirational districts which are also affected by Left Wing Extremism.

I urge upon Hon'ble Minister of Finance for opening of bank branches in Aspirational Districts including Bolangir Parliamentary Constituency of Odisha to ensure financial inclusion.