

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4069  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2000  
AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST BANK BRANCHES  
RAMJI MANJHI

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of agricultural specialist branches opened by the banks in public and private sector during the last three years, bank-wise :
- (b) the number of more such branches proposed to be opened during the current year;
- (c) whether there is any foundation for banks to open such branches; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) :

- (a) The Bankwise position of number of Specialised Agricultural Finance Branches of public and private sector banks as on 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is given in the enclosed statement.
- (b) RBI has reported that it has issued authorizations for opening five such specialised agricultural finance branches. These branches are yet to be opened as their opening depends on various factors such as availability of infrastructure, premises etc.
- (c) and (d) In terms of RBI's circular banks had been advised that with a view to promoting investment in agriculture, particularly in the high-tech areas, there should be at least one Specialised Agricultural Finance Branch (SAFB) of a commercial bank in each State to adequately deal with high-tech agricultural loans. Accordingly, banks may draw a suitable plan for opening of such branches in the State(s) where the bank is the convenor of the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC).