

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3502  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2006  
UNION MITRA SCHEME OF DBI  
Saroj Shri Tufani

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

- (a) whether Union Bank of India has initiated any scheme under the title `Union Mitra`;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this scheme has been formulated to cater the needs of rural population;
- (d) if so, the number of Centres proposed to be set up in rural areas for this purpose; and
- (e) the States where this scheme has been introduced?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. The Union Bank of India has initiated the Union Mitra Scheme on 14.11.2006 to cater to the needs of rural community. The Scheme, inter-alia, includes the following:

- (i) offer counselling services to those who are financially distressed.
- (ii) offer information of financial products and services as also on the products of the Bank.
- (iii) give guidance on opening a bank account.
- (iv) offer information on managing savings and likely avenues of investment.
- (v) give guidance about management of existing debt.

(c) : Yes, Sir. The scheme has been formulated mainly to cater to the needs of the rural population. Gradually, the scheme will cover urban population also.

(d) & (e) : The bank has started financial education services i.e. `Union Mitra` at 51 Centres across the country in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Punjab.