

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3441  
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2007  
SURVEY BY SBI  
Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav

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

- (a) whether the State Bank of India has made any survey to open Bank branches in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to open the branches?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a), (b) and (c): Based on survey conducted by the State Bank of India (SBI) for opening of new branches in Maharashtra under Annual Branch Expansion Plan for 2006-07, three new branches have already been opened in different places of Maharashtra out of 10 centres identified. This apart, approvals for upgradation of 22 Extension Counters located in Maharashtra into full fledged branches have also been obtained.

Under the Branch Authorisation Policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued in September 2005, banks have been given freedom to submit their Branch Expansion Plan to RBI for approval on annual basis. Banks are encouraged to open branches in rural and under-banked areas, keeping in view factors such as the nature and scope of banking facilities provided by the banks to common persons, actual credit flow of the Priority Sector, need for promoting financial inclusion, introduction of appropriate new products and enhanced use of technology for delivery of banking services.