

Bandhan expects to get banking nod by May

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Bandhan Financial Services is expecting the final banking approval from RBI by the end of this month. The newbie bank has already got a seat on the state-level bankers committee (SLBC) meeting, which will be held next month. It got the in-principle banking licence earlier last year.

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, chairman, Bandhan, said the information on the commencement of banking operations will be available only after the final licence is attained. The bank will open 600 branches and 250 ATMs as a part of building the banking network. "Bandhan had a loan book of Rs 9,600 crore in the previous year, which is expected to grow by Rs 3,500 crore this fiscal," said Ghosh.

However, he declined to comment on the capex to be invested for the expansion. The bank has 2,000 branches under the micro finance institutions (MFIs), which will also be used for banking operations.

Currently, the bank has a customer base of 66 lakh and another 11 lakh customers are expected to be added this year. Besides, the current customer base is expected to grow by 20%-25%. Ghosh was speaking on the sidelines of the Association of Micro Finance Institutions (AMFI) Banking Summit 2015. The summit was aimed at exploring scope for micro finance sector following the recent regulatory reforms.

As per the advisory note issued by the state finance minister, the banks will have to disclose their funding towards the MFIs in SLBCs.