

(a) the present norms for opening of branches of banks in small towns, cities and villages;  
and

(b) the details of such towns, cities and villages in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar which fulfils the criteria for bank branch, and the plans prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):  
(a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) classifies all centres in the country having a population of below 10,000 as rural centres. As per the present policy all Scheduled Commercial Banks can open branches in such centres as well as in small towns having population below 50,000, without the approval of RBI, subject to reporting.

In order to extend the reach of banking to the rural hinterland, Banks were advised in 2010-11 to provide appropriate banking facilities to habitations having a population in excess of 2000 (as per 2001 census) by March, 2012, using the Business Correspondent and other models, with appropriate technology back up.

9,213 such villages in the State of Bihar and 14,626 villages in the State of Uttar Pradesh, have been identified to be covered by March, 2012.

#### **FDI inflows in the country**

1611. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FDI inflows have recently increased considerably in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of cases of FDI exempted from seeking prior approval of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased by 53.8 percent from Rs. 49099 crore during January-June, 2010 to Rs. 75506 crore during January-June, 2011.

(c) As per the extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, cases which do not require Government approval as specifically provided, are exempted from seeking Government approval. The benefit of automatic route is intended to dispense with the need of multiple approvals. The recommendations of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) on proposals, which are under the Government approval route, with total foreign equity upto Rs. 1200 crore require approval of Minister of Finance and those above Rs. 1200 crore require approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

#### **Reduction in bonus rates on LIC policies**

1612. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the bonus rates for Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) policy-holders' are continuously getting reduced;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor; and
- (c) if not, the details of bonus rates, including any changes, since the year 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that the bonus rates declared showed a downward trend during the period from 2004 to 2006. However, the bonus rates have increased in 2007 and the rates are maintained at the same level thereafter.

#### **Corruption in implementation of MGNREGS in Rajasthan**

1613. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the growing corruption in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the country, particularly in Rajasthan; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to root out corruption in the implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) A total of 2250 complaints regarding irregularities in implementation of Mahatma