

(b) whether it is a fact that Primary Market Committee, Secondary Market Committee and Mutual Fund Committee of SEBI have been reconstituted by the present SEBI Chief with the intent of marginalizing the presence of investor activists; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) The current SEBI Chairman assumed charge on 18 February 2011. Since then no Investor Association Meetings have been called till date. The first meeting of the Investors' Associations (IAs), however, has been scheduled for December 23, 2011.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

The Primary Market Committee, Secondary Market Committee and Mutual Fund Committee have representatives of various investor forum/associations. Normally, Investor Associations who have already served in a committee is replaced by representative of another recognised Investor Association depending on expertise, experience of representative of such Investor Association and nature/requirement of the Committee. The Committees referred to above were recently reconstituted on the basis of the above principle.

#### **Target for achieving financial inclusion of rural areas**

†3005. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's planning to connect 2.46 lac villages with banks and to open bank accounts of 8 crore poors in two years is not making the desired progress;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any efforts to find out the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c) On order to extend the reach of the 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 Correspondents and other models with appropriate technology backup. Over 73,000 such habitations have been identified for extending banking services by March, 2012. By November, 2011, over 46,000 villages have been covered. Approximately 2.02 crore accounts under Financial Inclusion Plan have been opened by November, 2011.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.