(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The growth rate of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (at factor cost at constant 2004-05 prices) increased from 6.7 per cent in 2008-09 to 8.6 per cent in 2009-10 and 9.3 per cent in 2010-11. As per the Advance Estimates released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the growth rate of GDP (at factor cost at constant 2004-05 prices) is estimated to be 5.0 per cent in 2012-13 as compared to 6.2 per cent during 2011-12. Reducing impediments such as delays in obtaining project clearances, clarifying processes for land-acquisition and increasing access to infrastructure are crucial to boost investment and growth. Several steps including the setting up of the Cabinet Committee on Investment (CCI) to fast track large investment projects; strengthening of financial and banking sector; disinvestment in certain Public Sector Undertakings; permitting FDI in areas including multi-brand retail, power exchanges and aviation; fiscal consolidation, etc. have been undertaken to boost investment. The Union Budget 2013-14 has outlined several initiatives to boost investment in infrastructure and industry, that *inter alia* include encouraging Infrastructure Debt Funds, credit enhancement to infrastructure companies, raising the corpus of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, introduction of investment allowance for new high value investments, etc. These measures would revive market confidence, and restore growth momentum over the medium term.

Priority sector landing by private banks in NER

826. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken towards spreading wide network of nationalized banks into rural and remote areas in the North Eastern Region (NER) particularly in Assam to intensify their activities and facilitating rural population with subsidy schemes;

(b) whether the participation of private sector banks in Priority Sector Lending (PSL) in NER is very poor and unsatisfactory;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government proposes to adopt any mechanism of ensuring proper participation in PSL by private banks in NER and to enhance CD ratio of the region;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the roadmap for providing banking outlets in all the villages with population greater than 2000 by March, 2012, 3227 unbanked villages in the North Eastern States and Sikkim were covered with banking outlets like branches, business correspondents, rural ATMs, mobile vans, satellite branches etc. In Assam, 2319 such villages have been covered.

(b) and (c) As per RBI's data, Priority Sector Lending (PSL) by Private Sector Banks has increased from Rs.345.86 crore as on last reporting Friday of March, 2009 to Rs.933.20 crore as on last reporting Friday of March, 2012 in the North Eastern Region (NER).

(d) to (f) Banks have been advised by RBI, to set up a Special Sub-Committee (SSC) of District Level Consultative Committee (DCC) for districts with Credit Deposit ratio (CDR) of less than 40% to draw Monitorable Action Plans (MAPs) for improving CDR. The performance of banks is reviewed periodically at District and State Level.

Hiring of office premises by PNB

827. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Punjab National Bank (PNB) is not complying with the guidelines of RBI and IBA while framing the policy for hiring of premises for functioning of branches and other offices in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no policy w.r.t. the tentative rental rates in functioning of branches in Mumbai, Delhi and other metro cities, urban cities, semi-urban and rural places;

(c) whether PNB does not consider the tentative rental rates of other Government banks while framing the policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Punjab National Bank (PNB) has informed that it