

**Investment cycle**

3772. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to take immediate steps to keep the investment cycle going on in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The rate of investment as proportionate to Gross Domestic Product declined from 36.8 per cent in 2010-11 to 35 per cent in 2012-13. Revival of investment has, therefore, been a priority for the Government to improve the rate of growth of the economy.

(c) In the recent past, the Government has announced a number of policy measures with the objective of strengthening the investment climate in the economy which, *inter alia*, include setting up of the Cabinet Committee on Investment (CCI) to fast track large investment projects; strengthening of financial and banking sector; permitting FDI in areas including multi-brand retail, power exchanges and aviation, etc. 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 of corpus of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, introduction of investment allowance for new high value investments, etc. The RBI and the Government has also taken several measures that would facilitate foreign capital flow.

**Pension for above 55 persons**

†3773. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of men and women aged above 55 years respectively in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that thousands of activists had demonstrated at Jantar Mantar on 7 May, 2012 in the leadership of social activists Aruna Rai,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.