

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1167
ANSWERED ON MONDAY THE 25TH JULY, 2022/
SRAVANA 3, 1944 (SAKA)

PROTECTION OF SMALL INVESTORS
QUESTION

1167. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:

**Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes any scheme to promote investment in rural areas, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps for creating awareness and protecting small investors, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for expeditious and proper implementation of the Companies Act; and**
- (d) whether several companies have not paid dues of small investors, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS.

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a): Yes Sir. There are various schemes launched by the Government to increase investment in rural areas of the Country. Under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) framework, the holistic development of Gram Panchayats is envisaged through convergence and implementation of existing Government Schemes and Programmes under the administrative control of respective Ministries without allocating additional funds. A Village Development Plan (VDP) is prepared through community participation for the identified SAGY Gram Panchayats as per the local needs. To promote the different aspects of development VDP covers human, economic, social, environmental, personal development activities etc. Activities planned under SAGY are completed through convergence with government schemes, private organization etc.

(b): Yes Sir. As a part of the mandate provided in the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) in collaboration with partner institutes organises Investor Awareness Programmes (IAPs) across the country in rural areas through Common Service Centres e-Gov. Services India Ltd, Semi-Urban areas through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangthan, India Post Payments Bank including Post Offices and Urban areas through Professional institutes viz. ICAI, ICSI, ICoAI etc. Till date more than 65000 such programs across the country engaging 30 lac Citizens have been conducted to aware them of Do's and Don't while making any investment and to sensitize the participants about fraudulent and Ponzi Schemes. The IEPFA also runs awareness campaigns on Doordarshan and All India Radio Gyandarshan including awareness scroll messages, jingles, talk shows etc from time to time. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) also undertakes investor education and awareness activities and financial education programmes in rural and urban areas and also conducts programmes for various sections of society across the country. All the education and awareness programs are free for the participants. SEBI also carries out mass media campaign giving relevant messages to investors through popular media (TV/ Radio/Print/bulk SMSs/Digital media/cinema). Since 2011, SEBI has conducted 2,783 Regional Seminars covering around 2.51 lakhs participants till June 30, 2022 and since 2007, total 2,066 awareness programs have been conducted by SEBI recognized Investor Associations covering around 1 lakh participants till June 30, 2022.

(c) & (d) : Yes Sir. The Companies Act, 2013 (CA-13) received the assent of the President and got enacted on the 29.08.2013. Section 1 of CA-13 came into force on 29.08.2013. CA-13 contained 470 sections, out of which various sections have been brought into force in phases. Till date, all sections of the CA-13 have been notified. Sub-section (67) (ix) of Section 2 of the CA-13 and part of section 465 (Repeal and Savings) which refer to Registration of Companies (Sikkim) Act, 1961 are pending due to ongoing consultation with Government of Sikkim. Section 178(5) & 178(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 mandate that every company having more than 1000 shareholders, debenture holders, deposit holders and any other security holders shall constitute a Stakeholders Relationship Committee to consider and resolve the grievances of the security holders of the company. Action under provisions of the Companies Act has taken as and when incidences occur.
