

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7118  
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2012  
BANK ACCOUNTS WITH ZERO BALANCE  
Dhruvanarayana Shri R.

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued instructions to the scheduled commercial banks to allow any citizen to open bank accounts with zero balance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and banks' response received thereon?

**Answer**

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Namo Narain Meena)

(a) and (b):- With a view to achieve the objective of greater financial inclusion, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued instructions to all Scheduled Commercial Banks in November 2005, to make available a basic banking 'no-frills' account either with 'nil' or very low minimum balances as well as charges that would make such accounts accessible to vast sections of population. As per RBI, the number of no-frills accounts outstanding with Public Sector Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) and Private Sector Banks at end of March 2012, is 1032.06 lakhs.