

(d) if so, the details of (b) and (c) above; and

(e) the details of countries in the world which have already started 4G services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) 2G services are primarily for voice and low speed data services. 3G services provide converged data, internet and multimedia services supported by a high data rate including voice services provided by 2G services.

(b) to (d) TRAI has only issued pre-consultation paper to identify the issues involved in introduction of 4G and not submitted any recommendation on 4G spectrum.

(e) As per the available information, LTE (4G) has been deployed in Austria, Norway, Poland, Sweden, USA and Uzbekistan.

#### **Distribution of insurance products by post offices**

334. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether post offices have been permitted to distribute insurance products and act as a corporate agent of insurance;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) have granted permission for whole country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No such communication has been received from IRDA. However, a circular from the IRDA addressed to CEOs of all insurers titled "Separate framework to sanction Corporate Agency Licence to Department of Posts (India Post)" vide No. IRDA/CAGTS/CIR/LCE/165/10/2010 dated 14.10.2010 is on the website of IRDA.

(b) to (d) The copy of the circular is enclosed as a Statement.

***Statement***

*To CEOs of all the Insurance Companies*

**Ref: IRDA/CAGTS/CIR/LCE/165/10/2010**

**Date: 14-10-2010**

**Separate framework to sanction Corporate Agency License  
to Department of Posts  
(India Post)**

To

CEOs of All Insurers

**Separate framework to sanction Corporate Agency License to  
Department of Posts (India Post)**

1. The Authority had issued Exposure Draft on the captioned subject on September 13, 2009 inviting comments from all the insurers. The Authority has received responses from various entities. The responses have been examined in detail and have been considered wherever found suitable.
2. The Authority under the powers vested in Sec. 14(1) and 14(2)(c) of the IRDA Act, 1999 notifies the following framework applicable for granting corporate agency license to the Department of Post, Government of India. Except to the extent of relaxations permitted hereunder, all the provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938, Regulations and Guidelines as applicable to Corporate Agents shall apply to the '*Circle of India post*' upon its obtaining the Corporate Agent's License.
  - a. Each '*Circle of India post*' should be treated a separate unit in order to grant independent corporate agent licence with various insurers. However the Head of '*Circle*' may approach IRDA for prior approval of further division in the '*Circle*' as separate units, in the case of metropolitan areas, to obtain license to act as corporate agent, in view of the large population under the circle.
  - b. Each '*Circle of India Post*' is to be regarded as a 'person' for the purpose of Regulation 2 (k) of IRDA (Licensing of Corporate Agents) Regulations, 2002. Also, each '*Circle of India Post*' shall be deemed to be complying with Regulation 4 (1) of IRDA (Licensing of Corporate Agents) Regulations, 2002.

- c. The '*Circle of India Post*' is barred from being appointed as 'Referral Company' by any Insurance company as per provisions of IRDA (Sharing of Database for distribution insurance products) Regulations 2010.
- d. The Head of '*Circle of India Post*' shall be '*ipso facto ex officio*' Corporate Insurance Executive (CIE) for complying with provisions of IRDA (Licensing of Corporate Agents) Regulations, 2002. Also, all the permanent employees of the India Post having an educational qualification of 10+2 or equivalent shall be deemed to be complying with the relevant provisions regarding requirements of minimum educational qualification, training and examinations prescribed for 'Specified Persons'. In this regard, the India Post shall take necessary steps to impart required training to its permanent employees to be designated as 'Specified Persons' within a period of one year from commencement of corporate agency.
- e. Each '*Circle of India Post*' that has obtained a license to act as a Corporate Agent of Insurance Companies is allowed to tie up with 2 Non Life insurance companies, 2 Life Insurance companies, one Agricultural Insurance Company and one stand alone Health Insurance Company registered with IRDA.
- f. In its individual capacity the Head/Corporate Office of India Post shall not obtain license to act as Corporate Agent of any insurance company. The Head/Corporate Office India Post shall also not be appointed as '*Referral Company*' by any Insurance company as per provisions of IRDA (Sharing of Database for distribution insurance products) Regulations 2010. The Head/Corporate Office of India Posts shall not engage in the distribution of insurance products of any insurance company registered with IRDA in any other capacity.
- g. The CIE and Specified Persons of '*Circle of India Post*' shall comply with all other regulations/guidelines applicable to Corporate Agents.
- h. The Authority may stipulate such other terms and conditions from time to time for licensing/monitoring activities '*Circle of India Post*' to grant license as Corporate Agents.

(A. Giridhar)

Executive Director