

persons interested for the post of information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission were invited by posting an Office Memorandum on the website of DOP and T on 29th October, 2011. The fact had been widely reported in the media as well. The particulars of 214 interested persons were screened by the Search Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary. Panels were recommended by the Search Committee to the Selection Committee. The President on the recommendations of the Selection Committee appointed three Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission on 01.03.2012.

The Right to Information Act, 2005 does not prescribe the procedure to be followed by the Selection Committee. The Act also does not require that the procedure followed by the Selection Committee should be notified. The procedure followed by the Selection Committee has not been notified.

Penalty on pre-payment of housing loans

*268. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently asked all banks to immediately stop charging penalty on pre-payment of housing loans;
- (b) if so, the details thereon;
- (c) whether the directive is applicable to private and international banks;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that banks are not passing on the benefit of lower interest rates to the customers if there is fall in the rate of interest; and
- (f) if so, in what manner the Ministry would ensure that customers get the benefit of lower interest rate if there is a fall in it?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) on 5th June, 2012, not to charge foreclosure charges/pre-payment penalty on home loans on floating interest rate basis with immediate effect.

(c) and (d) The directions issued by RBI are applicable to all SCBs including Scheduled Private Sector Banks and Scheduled Foreign Banks operating in the country.

(e) and (f) In case of loans with floating interest rate, the borrower's specific rate is directly linked to the Base Rate fixed by the banks. The banks review their base rates periodically keeping in view the cost of funds and other applicable costs. As and when the Base Rate is changed by a bank, the rate of interest is automatically effected in all the accounts. In addition, some banks also issue press releases, update their websites and put up the change on notice board of their branches.

In the absence of such reduction, aggrieved borrowers can take recourse to the Grievance Redressal Mechanism available in all the banks. Reserve Bank of India has also set up a Customer Service Department under the aegis of their Department of Banking Operations and Development to resolve the complaints of customers against the banks. Further, RBI has also set up Banking Ombudsman at different locations, where bank customers may seek redressal of their complaints.

Self-employment through PMRY

†*269. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of youths in Uttarakhand who have been provided self-employment under the Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) from the financial year 2007 to 2012;

(b) the norms fixed under the Yojana at present;

(c) whether the recommendation of the State Government is necessary for self employment; and

(d) if so, the details and the number of youths in every district for whom recommendation has been sent by the State Government from 2007 to 2012?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) was being implemented till 2007-08. Since 2008-09, this scheme has been merged into a new credit-linked subsidy scheme named Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

The number of persons in Uttarakhand who have been provided margin money assistance to set up micro-enterprises under PMRY/PMEGP since 2007-08 to 2011-12 is given below:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.