

(c) whether, in the name of accidental insurance ₹ one hundred had been withdrawn from the accounts of farmers of Rajnandgaon, Janjgir, Champa, Bilaspur, Korba and Kabirdham whereas only ₹ 58 was paid to the insurance company; and

(d) if so, the persons found guilty for this act and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has informed that as per the report submitted by the Bilaspur District Central Cooperative Bank Ltd. (Bilaspur DCCB) in Chhattisgarh, a sum of ₹ 3,60,43,800/- of accident insurance money for one year in respect of 3,60,438 farmers had been debited from their accounts by Bilaspur DCCB and remitted to the Insurance Company.

(b) NABARD has informed that as per the report submitted by Bilaspur DCCB, no officer of Bilaspur DCCB was involved in the investigation and further one Deputy Registrar (State Government Official) was transferred, which falls in the domain of the Government of Chhattisgarh.

(c) NABARD has reported that Bilaspur DCCB had debited ₹ 100/- per account from the accounts of 3,60,438 farmers and remitted a sum of ₹ 3,60,43,800/- to the Insurance Company. The area of operation of Bilaspur DCCB extends to Bilaspur, Janjgir, Champa, Korba and Kabirdham. Rajnandgaon falls under the purview of Rajnandgaon District Central Cooperative Bank Ltd. (Rajnandgaon DCCB). As regards Rajnandgaon District, as per the report submitted by Rajnandgaon DCCB a sum of ₹ 58/- per account had been debited from the accounts of 1,72,888 farmers and ₹ 1,00,27,504/- was remitted to the Insurance Company.

(d) NABARD has reported that the amount debited was remitted in full, to the Insurance Company. However, based on a complaint, an enquiry was conducted by NABARD, which revealed certain shortcomings on the part of Bilaspur DCCB in finalization and implementation of the Insurance Scheme. The matter had been duly reported by NABARD to the Registrar, Cooperative Societies (RCS), Chhattisgarh.

Interest rate cuts

2568. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes for interest rate cuts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (c) No Sir, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deregulated the interest rates on term deposits from October, 1997. Accordingly, banks are now free to fix the interest rates on term deposits subject to the approval of their respective Boards. The Reserve Bank has also deregulated the savings bank deposit interest rate with effect from October 25, 2011. Accordingly, banks are now free to determine their savings bank deposit interest rate, subject to the following two conditions:

- (i) Each bank is required to offer a uniform interest rate on savings bank deposits up to ₹1 lakh;
- (ii) For savings bank deposits over ₹1 lakh, a bank may provide differential rates of interest, if it so chooses. However, there should not be any discrimination from customer to customer on the interest rates for similar amount of deposit.

With the introduction of Base Rate system since July 1, 2010, all rupee lending rates (including advances up to ₹2 lakh) have been deregulated. In a deregulated environment, banks have complete freedom in deciding their spread, risk premia, term premia and other customer specific charges as considered appropriate on the loans and advances based on their commercial judgment. However, there are some exceptions where the loans can be priced without reference to the Base Rate viz: Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) advances, loans to banks' own employees and loans to banks' depositors against their own deposits

Rural banking facilities for villages in Odisha

2569. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages with rural banking services in Odisha; and
- (b) the number of villages being planned for coverage in Odisha during 2014-15 against the existing 47000 unbanked villages for accelerating the coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) including the naxalite affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) As per information received from State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) Odisha, banking services have been provided in 27,577 villages through various modes.

In order to provide universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic bank account for every household, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has been launched across the country as a national mission on financial inclusion. Under