

**Steps to curb recession**

†1674. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a recession going on in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the efforts being made by Government to curb it;
- (c) whether the entire commercial framework is being adversely affected by the recession; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Recession is generally understood as a significant decline in economic activity, including in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices, lasting for more than a few months. As per the latest figures released by the Central Statistics Office, the growth rate of GDP at constant (2011-12) market prices has been estimated at 6.7 per cent, 8.4 per cent, 6.6 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively in the first, second, third and fourth quarters of 2014-15. Hence, going by the above criteria, the Indian economy is not going through recession.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Making Banking Correspondents Model economically viable**

1675. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has analyzed the requirements to make the Banking Correspondents Model economically viable;
- (b) what are the outcome from such an analysis;
- (c) whether Government has taken into account all such outcomes; and
- (d) if so, whether Government has incorporated the same into the mechanism that needs to be followed to ensure last mile connectivity which is essential for financial inclusion, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) To ensure that Business Correspondents (BCs)

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

provide uninterrupted services particularly in the difficult rural and remote areas, Government had consulted Banks, Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and other stakeholders for economic viability of the BCs before launching Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). Government had thereafter suggested a remuneration of ₹ 5000/- per month comprising of fixed and variable components, to every Business Correspondent.

Besides, Government has issued instructions in January, 2015 for payment of 1 % transaction charges to banks on rural based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes like pension, NREGA, pre-matric scholarship, maternity benefits etc. where a large number of transactions are likely to be through the Business Correspondents.

#### **Preparation of syllabi for exam of Insurance Agents**

†1676. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) had assigned the work of preparing syllabi and question bank to the Chartered Insurance Institute, London (CII, London) for the examination of insurance agents in the recent years and whether the CII, London has been still doing this work;

(b) the grounds on which the selection of CII, London was made;

(c) whether the Ministry has received any complaints in this regard or whether the Ministry had taken cognizance of it; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has informed that IRDAI had entrusted the job of development of syllabi and question bank for conducting Pre-recruitment Examination of Life Insurance Agents in India, to the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII), London. The MoU with CII, London was for a period of three years from 01.08.2011 which expired on 31.07.2014. Hence CII, London is not doing the work now.

(b) As per IRDAI, the earlier system was in existence for about ten years. After interaction with the various stakeholders and on a consideration of related matters, IRDAI felt the need to improve the contents of agents training course material in terms of quality, consistency with the Regulations and its presentation, in order that prospective agents are better trained. Having surveyed appropriate bodies who can undertake such a task,

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