

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,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the IRDAI felt that it is necessary to introduce a module on Financial Needs Analysis to ensure thorough test of knowledge of candidates desirous of obtaining insurance agency so that the need based philosophy replaces existing product push approach in insurance sale process. Hence, the Authority decided to consult Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) and sought their permission to use their 'Award in Financial Planning-India'. On receipt of in-principle concurrence from CII, the IRDAI entrusted the job of development of new syllabi and question bank for pre-recruitment test of Life Insurance Agents to CII.

(c) and (d) Yes, the Ministry had received complaints in this regard. Ministry had also taken cognizance of a newspaper report "IRDA-approved training syllabus comes under FinMin scanner" which appeared in the Indian Express, Delhi Edition of 7th October, 2013 and sought comments from IRDAI. A second complaint was received again on 11.10.2012. Again comments were sought from IRDAI on 25.10.2012. Another complaint was received on 26.10.2012. It was also forwarded to IRDAI with a request for further details. The matter and inputs received from IRDAI are under process in the department.

Plan and non-plan grants to Jharkhand

1677. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the total amount of grants—plan and non-plan separately—given to Jharkhand in the last three financial years by the Government;
- (b) the details of plan grants given, Ministry-wise and scheme-wise; and
- (c) what systems are in place for Government to satisfy itself that grants have been utilized for the intended beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) During the period 2012-13 to 2014-15, an amount of ₹18,396 crore towards plan grants under Central assistance to State Plan, Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, and an amount of ₹ 4261 crore on account of Non-plan grants including Finance Commission Grants was released to the State Government of Jharkhand.

(b) The details of Ministry-wise and Scheme-wise Plan Grants released during 2012-13 to 2014-15 to the State Government of Jharkhand are provided in the Statement-I, Statement-II and Statement-III (*See below*).

(c) The funds are released as per the extant guidelines of the scheme(s) on receipt of certificates that grants has been utilized for which it was sanctioned and the balance that remain unutilized is adjusted towards the grants-in-aid payable during the next year.