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Title: Regarding denial of gift for LIC agents in the Golden Jubilee celebration.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): Sir, the LIC is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year. Of course, it is a matter of pride and accomplishment that the entire workforce of the LIC deserves greetings and congratulations for the continuous sterling performance of LIC despite all odds and for more than fulfilling the avowed objectives of its nationalisation, helping in nation-building activities and meeting the social welfare measures and, above all, for ensuring safety and security of the public savings.

I am happy to note that to commemorate the occasion, LIC has distributed gold coins to the serving employees and an *ex gratia* to club member agents in recognition of their contribution to the splendid growth of the LIC. While I appreciate the decision of the LIC in rewarding them, I would like to mention the role played by lakhs and lakhs of agents, who are left unrewarded, who are the pillars upon which the giant monolithic financial institution rests. The contribution of the agents working in hamlets, villages, towns, cities and metros throughout the length and breadth of the country cannot be under-estimated. Also, it is their sweat and toil which is adding thrust to the amassment of insurmountable level of assets the LIC has to its credit. Hence, they deserve to be rewarded and they should not be left unrewarded.

Further, it will sound an irony that while a section of their lot, who happen to be the club members at various tiers are rewarded, a majority of them are left unheeded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your demand? Please put your demand.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN : Sir, this will naturally demoralise those who are left out and this in no way enthuse them to be usual. To avoid such a discrimination, it is imperative that they are also honoured with an *ex gratia* suitably.

I request the Government that necessary steps should be taken to extend this privilege to those agents also.