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Title: Need to review the recommendations of Shyamala Gopinath Committee report on administration of National Small Savings Fund to protect the interests of Post Office Agents. .

SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE (KALYAN): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the proposed reduction of commission paid to Agents of Post Office. In India there are about 5,00,000 agents who are mobilizing customers from urban and rural areas for encouraging savings into the various schemes of postal departments namely Kisan Vikas Patra, National Savings Certificate, deposit in Time Deposit Accounts, Monthly Income Scheme Account and Senior Citizen Scheme Accounts. In rural area they play a major role in mobilization of customers. Such agents are paid different commissions on the basis of different schemes. However, the Shyamala Gopinath committees which have considered the issue, has recommended graded down the commission in respect of NSC and Post office scheme and also doing away with commission on Public provident fund and Senior Citizen's scheme. This is being suggested as to help inventory to get higher rate of interest. This is an issue that will go against the agents as they have to cover lots of villages, convince them and bring them to making investment. Further, if commissions on small saving scheme are reduced/abolished, it will affect the livelihood of agents and their families. There is possibility of their losing jobs.

I therefore, request and urge the Government to take into account the plight of already suffering postal agents and their ability to mobilize deposits to the postal department before any decisions is taken. It would be in the fitness of things that additional 50 basis points should be added as commission to the Postal agents instead of reducing the same as suggested by the Government panel.