

>

Title: Need to review the orders issued by the Government on the basis of recommendations of Shyamala Gopinath Commission and take appropriate action in favour of Mahila Pradhan Agents.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): The Central Government has constituted a Commission under the Chairmanship of Smt. Shyamala Gopinath to study and recommend the functions of National Small Saving Schemes Funds. This scheme was started in the year 1970. The main objective of the Scheme was to promote the small savings of the poor people, housewives and others who can contribute. The mobilization of the fund is carried out through the agents. Large majority of them are women. The commission given to them is 5% in the initial stage. Then it was reduced to 4%. Now the Commission has made the proposal to reduce the commission from 4% to 1% which causes severe setback and difficulties to the scheme as well as to the poor agents. In the year 2008-09, they have mobilized about 9000 crores of rupees and it reached 30,000 crores and more in the year 2009-10. So, this amount is a financial assistance to the State as well as to the Centre. If the Commission is reduced, it would not be possible for the agents even to travel for the work. The Commission again recommended that there should not be any commission to the deposits of the Provident Fund employees who are senior citizens' and other sections. So, it is really a direct action to abolish the small saving schemes and encourage the private banks who are entering in this field now. There are about 5 lakhs small saving agents throughout the country. Though they get a meager amount as a commission, their work is credited and valuable to the State as well as to the nation.

So, I urge upon the Government to withdraw the order issued by the Government on the basis of Shyamala Gopinath Commission and take appropriate action in favour of Mahila Pradhan Agents.