

A parasite, ICICI Lombard chose Centre's schemes to suck govt money

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In Haryana's Hissar district, of the 617 farmers enrolled under the WBCIS, 82 were bogus and 142 were untraceable.

Deepak Srivastava, associate vice-president, HR, ICICI Lombard, told DNA that the company had investigated the matter after receiving hundreds of complaints about bogus people being enrolled under the WBCIS in Rajasthan. "The ICICI management hushed up the investigation report that had indicted several of its top-ranking officials," he said.

ICICI Lombard's forgery does not end with bogus farmers. DNA found that company officials in West Bengal siphoned off government money meant for the health insurance scheme for

handloom weavers.

The Union government, in collaboration with ICICI Lombard, had introduced the scheme in November 2005 to bear the medical expenses of weavers.

In March 2010, Srivastava as the national manager of ICICI Lombard's fraud control unit, wrote to the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) Bengal branch detailing how exactly some ICICI Lombard employees siphoned off the entire money.

An investigation showed the government had released funds for at least 2,000 weavers between July 2008 and March 2009. But a couple of ICICI Lombard employees had diverted the entire fund to the United Bank of India (Basirhat, West Bengal) accounts of two people — Abul Kalam Mondal and Ahamed Ali Mondal — who might be non-existent.

In his letter, Srivastava said the money lost could go up to almost Rs75 lakh. And such cases can be found across the state, he said. "We found only two such dummy accounts... Further investigations will surely reveal several such accounts across districts," he said.

An FIR was registered at the Bhavani Bhavan in Kolkata based on Srivastava's letter. Subsequently several people, including ICICI Lombard employees, were arrested. Investigations, once again, showed that bogus people were enrolled to increase premium collection from the government.

DNA found that the company is still to provide the ED with the address details of beneficiaries under the scheme.

ICICI Lombard, DNA found, chose almost every insurance scheme where the Centre is involved to siphon off government money. The records of hundreds of beneficiaries under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) — a flagship insurance scheme of the UPA government to provide the poor with basic health cover — in Uttar Pradesh's Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Jaunpur and Sant Ravidas Nagar districts are either incomplete or incorrect.

Here, too, the company started an investigation into the matter following multiple complaints, but did not take any action. It appointed Helix, a forensic experts company in Mumbai, in November 2011 to verify if the holders of biometric cards — issued by the company — in UP did exist. The Helix report had said there were "high possibilities of fraud in the RSBY cards".

Srivastava said the company brushed the report aside. "Since the company did not take any action, I approached the CBI. But nothing happened," he said.

Failing to get any response from the CBI, Srivastava filed a public interest litigation against the company in the Bombay high court in April this year. The court, however, asked him to file his PIL in the Rajasthan high court as most of the incidents have happened there.

ICICI Lombard refused to tell DNA anything because "the matter is sub-judice".

WESTERN RAILWAY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

POSTPONEMENT OF DUE DATE
of Tender Notice No. S/22/2012
dated 21/05/2012 to Sr. No. 460
'E' Procurement Advt Tender No.
07/11/5265 Due on 05/07/2012
is hereby Postponed to
24/07/2012, Quantity is Reduced
to 500 Nos, instead of 1500 Nos,
EMD Rs. 73200 instead of Rs.
219500 & Tender Cost Rs. 1000
instead of Rs. 2000. All other
terms and conditions remains the
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PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Mr. KAUSHIK R JOSHI
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