

Opening up of Insurance Sector

†*130. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to open the Insurance Sector for private as well as foreign companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its likely impact on employment and investment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999 was passed by Lok Sabha on 2nd December, 1999 with certain amendments. The Bill seeks to set up an Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority and amend the LIC Act, 1956, GIBNA, 1972 and Insurance Act, 1938. The opening up of this sector will enlarge the size of the insurance market. This will help improve the quality of service to consumers and result in the long term additional investment and employment.

Appointment of women Public Prosecutors and Judges

*131. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any positive steps have been taken by Government on the recommendation of the Law Commission for appointment of women public prosecutors and judges in sufficient number to deal with the cases involving women in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of appointments so far made by Government in the country, State-wise, particularly in the State of Punjab; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.