

(c) and (d) Under the direct tax laws, Information regarding taxpayers cannot ordinarily be made public. Disclosure of such information regarding taxpayers is prohibited under section 138 of the Income Tax Act 1961 and its unauthorized disclosure is punishable under section 280 of the said Act. Further, Publication of the names of assesses and any particulars relating to any proceeding in respect of such assesses is governed by section 287 of the said Act.

As regards Enforcement Directorate is concerned it has been reported by them that they are not investigating any matter relating to money laundering by SKNL and RTIL.

New health insurance strategies for senior citizen

5020. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the senior citizens were worst affected with upward revision of health insurance product in the year 2010 by the insurance companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has finalized health insurance strategy for senior citizens in the country to provide them adequate health insurance cover and treatment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Among the Public Sector General Insurance Companies (PSGICs), National Insurance Company Ltd. The New India Assurance Company Ltd and The Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. have not revised the premium of their health insurance product since 2007. United India Insurance Company Ltd. had revised the premium for health Insurance Policies for Mediclaim in 2011. Revision in prices was effected with the approval of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), based on claim experience, age-band wise, As the claims experience of Health Insurance has been extremely adverse in the higher age bands especially above 60 years, the percentage of increase in premium warranted in these age band was also high. However United India has ensured that the increase in premium in respect of the elderly is proportionately lower than warranted.

(c) and (d) PSGICs have specially designed policies for senior citizens at the

entry level in the age bracket of 60 to 80 years namely "Varitha Bima Yojana" by National Insurance Company Ltd. "Health of Privileged Elderly (HOPE)" by the Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. and "Senior Citizens Mediciclaim Policy" by The new India Assurance Company Ltd. and United India Insurance Company Ltd. As in the case of regular Mediciclaim Insurance Policies, there is no age limit for renewals of these policies and can be continued throughout the life-time of the insured.

Use of toxic chemicals in food items

5021. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has noticed the use of highly toxic and dangerous chemicals and preservatives in food items including fruits and vegetables in the country;
- (b) if so, the measures adopted to ensure safe food the community; and
- (c) the number of cases registered in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per the information received from the States/U.Ts. Some food items were founds not conforming to prescribed standards. Commodity wise data for the year 2010, as received from States/UTs is given in Statement. (See below)

(b) The implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act/ Rules/ Regulations rests with States/UT Governments. To ensure availability of food free of adulteration, pollution and contamination, random samples of various food articles are drawn regularly by the Food Safety Officers of all State/UT Government. These samples are tested and penal action is taken against the offenders in cases where samples are found to be not conforming to the standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules/Regulations, 2011 Framed thereunder.

- (c) The number of cases registered annually in the three years are as under:

Year	No. of Prosecutions launched
2008	6506
2009	11061
2010	7064