

(e) The main objectives of monetary policy in India are maintaining price stability and ensuring adequate flow of credit to the productive sectors of the economy to support high rate of economic growth. The RBI hiked the repo rate thrice during 2013-14 by 25 bps each from 7.25 per cent to 8 per cent on 28.01.2014 on account of upside risks to inflation. The policy rates have been kept unchanged since then. The current policy stance of the RBI is firmly committed to keeping the economy on a disinflationary course, taking CPI inflation to 8 per cent by January 2015 and 6 per cent by January 2016.

**New guidelines issued by IRDA for universal life products**

186. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) has issued certain guidelines for universal life products or variable insurance products;

(b) whether the new guidelines are very valuable to the policy holders;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these guidelines have been given publicity to help the policy holders avail such benefits; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) have informed that the Authority has notified Variable Insurance Products under the linked platform and the non-linked platform *i.e.* IRDA (Linked Insurance Products) Regulations, 2013 and IRDA (Non-Linked Insurance Products) Regulations, 2013 in the month of February, 2013.

(b) and (c) The new guidelines issued for variable insurance products provide for flexibility, transparency, ease in understanding and also allow for maintaining individual policy accounts for each policy holder. Further, the net premiums of these products are invested in the policy account and they are not subjected to market fluctuations or underlying asset value changes. Thereby any downside is protected.

(d) and (e) These guidelines as contained in the IRDA (Linked Insurance Products) Regulations, 2013 and IRDA (Non-Linked Insurance Products) Regulations, 2013 are uploaded in the website of the Authority and circulated to the Industry. Insurance companies also advertise their products individually as per their marketing plan and publicise the features and benefits available under their insurance products/ policies for the policyholders to avail.