

Capital requirement for selling medical insurance

3710. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance is examining to reduce the minimum Rs. 100 crore capital requirement for parties keen on selling medical insurance;

(b) if so, whether a task force which was constituted to increase the coverage of health insurance in the country is expected to decide soon on the issue;

(c) whether this task force has submitted its recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when they are likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has reported that there is no proposal to reduce the minimum capital requirement of Rs. 100 crores for insurance companies selling medical insurance products.

(b) to (e) A sub-group on 'Health Insurance — Issues and Challenges' has been constituted by the Working Group on Health Economics for tenth Plan, with a view to examine the current experiences of Health Insurance in India, impact of insurance on efficiency and equity in health care delivery and financing as well as the need for regulation of private health insurance in the context of liberalisation. However, no task force has been constituted to suggest increase in coverage of health insurance in the country.

Moderate growth of economy

3711. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that the economy witnesses a moderate growth, consumer durables, cellular services, housing, finance and software power have shown recovery;