

**Seventeenth Loksabha**

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Regarding Bima Sugam Exchange proposal of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

SHRI P. R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE): The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) is a regulatory body tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and re-insurance industries in India. The IRDA has a new proposal to bring 'Bima Sugam Exchange' against the interest of insurance industry and its policy holders. This industry is having assets of more than Rs. 40 lakh crore at present which was earned by the dedicated services of the staff, agents and development officers of insurance industry. It is one of the wealthiest public sector CPSUs. It is giving its major share to the Indian economy for providing basic amenities in the rural areas across the country by giving loans to the Central/State Governments, and its share is mostly with the Government sector/CPSUs only, and not with any private sector. If IRDA's above proposals are accepted, there will not be any chances for the ordinary people, who are unable to read and know the terms and conditions while choosing a policy, to suit their earnings and savings and to avail the benefits of policies. At present, around 200 different sets of insurance policies are offered in the insurance industry by both Government and private companies. Since, ordinary people have to apply for a policy through online portal only, due to ignorance, there would be more chances of rejection of their choice or they may be unaware of the claim details of their policies on its maturity. There are more precedents on the privatization policy of the Government in the past. The recent and classic example is the erstwhile DoT which was converted into BSNL Corporation on 01.10.2000 during the Prime Ministership of late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and now it is on the edge of Government CPSU status and will be thrown out by allowing most of the activities of BSNL by investing thousands of crores in infrastructure, incentives to the private sector from the Government budget. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government, through this august House, to drop IRDA's 'Bima Sugam Exchange' proposal for the safety of policy holders, their claims of the policies on its maturities, to save the Government owned insurance industry's wealth of Rs. 40 lakh crore and to save more than 24 lakh well-educated agents/staff/Development Officers who are wholly depending on this self-employment for their livelihood.