

the announcement by the Prime Minister on 16th May, 1987, Life Insurance Corporation of India have submitted broad outlines of the Scheme under which insurance cover will be made available to all landless agricultural labourers all over the country. This Scheme has now been approved by Government and suitable instructions are being issued to Life Insurance Corporation of India to start implementation of the Scheme forthwith. To begin with, the Scheme will be operated for a period of three years and during this period the entire premium liability will be borne by the Government of India. Under the Scheme which will cover all landless agricultural labourers in India, within the age group of 18 to 60, the Life Insurance Corporation of India will pay a sum of Rs. 1000/- to the nominee of the landless agricultural labourer in the event of his death. For such insurance cover no premium is to be paid by the landless agricultural labourers. LIC will operate this scheme on a 'no profit no loss' basis as the objective of the Scheme is to provide insurance protection to all landless agricultural labourers. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to provide such insurance cover to other labourers.

[English]

Selection to the Post of Secretaries

*228. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received representations from senior IAS Officers regarding their selection to the post of Secretary to Government of India;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the matter; and

(c) what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The posts of Secretary to the Government of India are covered under the senior staffing scheme in accordance with which the services of individual officers are borrowed on deputation from their respective cadre authorities. Appointments to these posts are made keeping in mind the requirements of each post and the qualifications and experience of the officers in the field of choice.

Setting up of Technology Assessment and Forecasting Group

*232. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Science and Technology has set up a technology assessment and forecasting group;

(b) if so, whether it will monitor technology growth abroad; and

(c) whether its report will be considered while granting sanction for foreign collaboration and indigenous research projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Government has approved setting up of 'Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council' (TIFAC) as an autonomous body under Department of Science and Technology

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The TIFAC will monitor technology growth abroad in selected areas and provide inputs which would be helpful for selection of technology to be