

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO- \*180**  
ANSWERED ON- 14.3.2022/ PHALGUNA 23, 1943 (SAKA)

**Appointment of IRDAI Chairman**

\*180. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the post of the Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has been lying vacant for the last eight months and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Peoples' Commission on Public Sector and Public Services has urged the Union Cabinet Secretary to advise the Cabinet not to divest its Stakes in the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that it is pursuing the draft IPO proposal while the regulatory body remains headless;
- (d) whether the Commission's letter points out that the Government has been delaying the appointment of IRDAI Chairman to rush LIC IPO and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by when the Government plans on appointing the Chairman of the IRDAI?

**ANSWER**

THE FINANCE MINISTER

(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**Statement as referred to in reply to Part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question no. \*180 for answer on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 regarding “Appointment of IRDAI Chairman” by SHRI MANISH TEWARI, Hon’ble Member of Parliament**

(a) to (e): Appointment has been notified on 11.3.2022 to fill up the vacancy that had arisen in the office of the Chairperson, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India upon completion of the term of the last incumbent.

An email dated 14.2.2022 has been received in the Cabinet Secretariat from the People’s Commission on Public Sector and Public Services, expressing apprehension that regulatory oversight has been weakened to facilitate disinvestment in LIC and advising that no action be pursued on LIC disinvestment till a person heads the Authority, on the ground that a headless Authority will be considering the draft Initial Public Offer (IPO) proposal. In this regard, it is pertinent that LIC, in accordance with the provisions of regulation 25 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, filed the draft offer document for the IPO with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 12.2.2022 and there is no requirement under the said regulations or otherwise for the same to be considered by the Authority.

It is further informed that under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, the powers and functions of the Authority are vested collectively in the collective body of its Members. The Act and the regulations made thereunder also provide that the senior-most full time Member of the Authority shall fix the date, time and place of its meeting and approve items of agenda therefor, that any other Member chosen by the Members present shall preside at its meetings in the absence of the Chairperson, and that vacancies etc. in the Authority shall not invalidate its acts or proceedings. Thus, even when there is a vacancy in the office of the Chairperson, the Authority is in position to exercise its powers and discharge its functions in accordance with applicable law.

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