

WORKERS COMPENSATION, AVERAGE PREMIUM RATES

**37. Mrs EDWARDES to the Minister for Labour Relations:**

I have a supplementary question. The minister did not answer my question. Will he give an undertaking that his Government - not the insurance companies - will not introduce legislative or administrative changes that will increase the average recommended premium rate above 2.6 per cent?

**Mr KOBELKE replied:**

I thought the member may have understood, given that she has had responsibility in this area, that there is a difference between the average premium rate that is set by the Premium Rates Committee and that charged by the market. What is actually paid is most important to business, not what is set as an average premium rate on the books. I assure the member and the House that the changes to be put in place by the Government will put fairness back into the workers compensation system and the rates paid will go down.