

## POURNIMA GUPTÉ

Actuary, Reliance Life Insurance

# Highly Respected

**P**ournima Gupte, 54, may become the first woman to head a prominent position as member — actuary at the insurance regulator Irda. Currently, she is working as an appointed actuary with Reliance Life Insurance (since 2005). Gupte has worked on new product development, statutory valuation and review of business plan, claims and underwriting policy.

“She is a hard taskmaster not liked by many, but respected by all,” says a former colleague. “She is a little conservative, and not a pliable actuary. She has a mind of her own.”

She looks for students good in mathematics and grooms them to become actuaries. She is credited with bringing in about 50 actuaries to the industry in various companies that she has worked with. After graduating in Statistics from the University of Mumbai in 1982, Gupte joined LIC and honed her skills there for two decades. In 1994, she became the first woman officer in LIC to be posted overseas, London. After the life insurance sector was privatised, she worked at OM Kotak Life Insurance and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.