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## INSURANCE QUERY.



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As an entrepreneur running a small business, I'm concerned about fire or theft at my shop premises, which also serves as a storage space. What kind of business insurance should I consider, and does it also cover loss of income during downtime?

**Sagar**

For a small business owner like yourself, particularly when your office also functions as a storage space, having the right insurance can make all the difference in ensuring the safety of your business.

First, you should look for policies specifically made to cater to unique risks faced by small businesses. The Sooksham and Laghu Udhya Suraksha policies, introduced under IRDAI guidelines, provide comprehensive coverage tailored for small businesses. It offers protection for your building and contents, meaning any damage to your office structure or items inside, such as furniture or equipment, caused by fire, lightning or storms is covered.

The policy also protects against burglary and robbery, compensating for stolen goods or damage caused during break-ins. The stock in storage



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protection covers inventory stored within the premises against risks such as fire, theft or accidental damage. It also has an optional business interruption cover that compensates for loss of income resulting from business operations being halted due to an insured event like fire or flooding. Correct occupancy needs to be selected as it involves stock in storage, too.

Another important option to consider is commercial property insurance, which covers storage spaces such as warehouses, self-storage units and other commercial facilities. This insurance protects against physical damage to the storage space and its contents caused by fire, theft or natural disasters. A general

liability insurance policy can also be considered depending on specific needs. It safeguards businesses against various risks, encompassing third-party bodily injuries, property damages and lawsuits from third-party damage claims. In the event of a commercial fire incident, this liability coverage provides financial assistance to compensate for nearby property damaged or destroyed by an incident at insured premises like fire or explosion. Additionally, if any other third party sustains injuries due to a fire outbreak within the insured business premises, the general liability policy could cover the medical expenses incurred for their treatment and the legal costs involved.

Other than this, several companies offer specific package policies, such as shopkeepers' package policies. It provides protection such as money insurance coverage, which is part of the package and covers the loss of money if it's stolen during transportation or taken from a safe during a burglary. If your business equipment breaks down suddenly, the policy includes breakdown coverage, which helps cover repair or replacement costs for vital machinery or equipment. Similarly, the electronic equipment coverage protects electronic devices, such as computers or servers, from accidental damage and even helps in restoring lost data from damaged storage devices. To guard against internal risks, the policy offers a fidelity guarantee, protecting business-owners from financial losses caused by dishonest or fraudulent acts the employees may commit.

It also covers personal accident coverage, ensuring that in the event of any injuries or disabilities due to an accident, the policy will provide financial compensation for medical expenses or loss of income. This financial compensation aspect of the policy can provide reassurance in case of unforeseen accidents, making the Shopkeepers' Package Policy a smart and essential choice for small business owners looking to secure their operations against unforeseen risks.

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