

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Issue regarding disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings.

SHRIMATI NUSRAT JAHAN (BASIRHAT): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, as we all know, the public sector was structured to spearhead a chain of revolutions leading to the path of economic growth. In the initial years of planning, the public sector was used as a strong tool by the Government to maintain its control over the key industries. The public sector was, in fact, seen as an instrument to move towards the ideal of a so-called socialist society. The wages given in the public sector industry, are supposed to be the model for the private sector enterprises.

But, now, the Government, at this juncture, is considering the possibilities of raising revenue by very aggressively disinvesting shareholdings in major Maharatna and Navratna public sector units, like Coal India, IOC, HPCL, SAIL, GAIL, BHEL, Air India, etc.

My question is this. Why is the Government going for selling the profit-making industries? Rather, if the Government wants to disinvest, then disinvest the loss-making industries. Due to such aggressive disinvestment policy, all the employees are in a state of total uncertainty.

The whole country is very proud of our major Government-owned industries. Thus, I would humbly request the Government to, at least, sell the loss-making PSUs in PPP model and not opt for the total sell out of the PSUs.

In the end, my Party and I strongly oppose the disinvestment of profit-making PSUs by the Government.

I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to come to the House and assure us what the actual design and proposal of the Government is with regard to the future of PSUs in our country.

Dhanyavad, Sir.