

Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) has a proposal to retrench employees during 1998-99 as it has surplus manpower.

(c) During 1997-98 till 31.8.97, the last date for opting for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) as per the decision of the Government, 1535 employees opted for the VRS.

(d) to (g) The Company is sick and is before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) since 1992. The provisional net loss for 1997-98 and accumulated losses as on 31.3.98 are Rs. 66.60 crores and Rs. 370 crores respectively. During June, 1997 the Government decided, inter-alia, to explore the possibility of rehabilitating BGML through Joint Venture route by induction of a private co-promoter(s). Accordingly, a Committee was constituted, which has since given its report. The future of BGML will be decided as per the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. In the absence of any sanctioned rehabilitation scheme by the BIFR in respect of BGML, it is not possible to indicate the number of employees required for operational and administrative functions.

Compensation Paid to Karnataka by KIOCL

4313. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has granted permission to Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited to explore mining possibilities near Nellibeedu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of compensation to be paid by KIOCL to Karnataka Government for the development of Kudremukh National Park;

(d) whether the compensation paid by KIOCL has been utilised for the development of the Kudremukh National Park; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

China's Accusation Against India

4314. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "China lashes out at India" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated May 19, 1998;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction to Chinese accusations claiming that New Delhi has occupied 90,000 Sq. km. of Chinese territory and poses new threat to China as well as other neighbours with nuclear weapons;

(c) whether Chinese accusation is being considered as a threat to the country's security; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to safeguard the security and integrity of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned China lashes out at India, which appeared in The Hindustan Times dated 19.5.1998.

2. The Chinese statement about occupation of their 90,000 sq. km. of territory by India is contrary to facts. In fact, China is illegally occupying about 38,000 sq. km. of Indian territory of the Jammu and Kashmir State. Apart from this, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'boundary settlement' of 1963, Pakistan had illegally ceded 5180 sq. km. of Indian territory in Pakistan - occupied Kashmir to China.

3. As regards Chinese accusation that India poses new threat to China as well as other neighbouring countries, it may be stated that in India's neighbourhood, China is already a nuclear weapon State since sixties. China is also assisting Pakistan in their nuclear and missile programmes. India's nuclear programme is only for the purpose of defence of the country. It does not pose any threat to any of our neighbours including China.

4. All developments having bearing on our national security are constantly monitored and assessed. Appropriate measures are taken to maintain our defence preparedness to face all eventualities.

Linking of Talcher with Gopalpur

4315. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay new railway lines between Talcher and Gopalpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken ?

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