

[English]

Revival of ECL

1111. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ICICI has suggested steps to revive Eastn Coalfields Limited;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a large number of mines of ECL are non-productive;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether some blocks are to be carved out from ECL to form a joint venture; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to revive the ECL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) In their Part-I report the ICICI has made the following recommendations to revive ECL;
- i) Phasing out of unviable mines.
 - ii) Rationalisation of manpower.
 - iii) Enhancing production and productivity from both underground and open cast mines.
 - iv) Increase of sales revenue by higher sales realisation.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) The reasons are :
- i) There are 11 areas producing 38.94% of the total production of ECL but engaging 68.83% of the company's manpower. About 80% of the average annual loss of ECL is caused by these 11 areas.
 - ii) The capacity utilisation and per capita productivity (Output per manshift) in ECL are very low as compared to the other subsidiaries of Coal India Limited.
 - iii) Underground mines of the country in general, have much lower productivity than the open-cast mines. Proportion of underground production to the total production in ECL is high. The requirement of sand stowing in the underground mines of ECL adds to the cost of production. Majority of the underground mines are very old and a large number of them are being worked manually.

(iv) Many underground mines of ECL are having geo-mining problems like steep and multiple seams, occurrence of fire and water-logged old workings.

(v) The size of the mine determines the economics of production. By and large, due to the presence of various geo-mining problems, even after reorganisation of some of the mines, the average size of the mines in ECL is small.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (e) of the question.

Financial Assistance from Banks to Textile Industry

1112. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the banks treat textiles as not lending area;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to instruct banks and financial institutions to meet the financial demands of textiles mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) Lending to any sector is made as per the norms evolved by the Financial Institutions under the general supervision of the Reserve Bank of India. Representations were received from certain textile industry associations about problems of credit faced by the industry. The Ministry took the initiative of convening a series of meetings including one chaired by the Textile Minister and participated by representatives of the Industry and the financial institutions concerned. During discussions, some representatives of industry stated that textile was considered as a high risk sector by Banks and Financial Institutions, which was, however, not admitted by the Financial Institutions. At the meeting, the representatives of Banks and Financial Institutions were urged to relax the norms for lending, wherever possible, to accommodate the present needs to textile industry. Minister of State (Revenue, Banking and Insurance) also met the representatives of Textile Associations and representatives of Banks and Financial institutions to consider the working capital requirements of textile industry.

Dumping of Steel

1113. SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some countries are dumping certain varieties of steel in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to impose anti-dumping duty on steel;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to save the domestic steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tariff Act and the Rules made thereunder has conducted anti-dumping investigations into dumping of hot rolled coils, sheets plates and strips originating in or exported from Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. The Designated Authority has notified final findings wherein the Authority has concluded that :-

- (i) Hot rolled coils, plates, sheets and strips originating in or exported from Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine have been exported to India below their normal value except for hot rolled coils originating in Kazakhstan, resulting in dumping;
- (ii) The domestic industry has suffered material injury;
- (iii) The injury has been caused to the domestic industry by the exports of the subject goods originating in or exported from the subject countries.

(c) to (e) The Central Government, based on the recommendations of the Designated Authority has imposed antidumping duty on imports of the said products.

[Translation]

Indigenous Industry

1114. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to give a boost to the indigenous industries in the field of raw material;

(b) if so, the schemes formulated and the facilities being provided in this regard; and

(c) the outcome of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Industrial raw material includes semi-finished and finished products such as steel, cement, non-ferrous metals, chemicals, coal, etc. Government have announced various measures for infrastructure sectors such as roads, telecommunication, power, construction activities, etc. Implementation of these measures is expected to boost the demand of raw materials. Reduction in duty structure and tariff rationalisation are some of the fiscal measures intended to boost indigenous industries in the field of raw material. The Ministry has created steering groups related to sectors like paper, automobile, electrical products, etc. which are consulting with industry to suggest appropriate measures in this regard.

(c) The requirement of different semi-finished and finished products as indigenous raw materials by various industries are not centrally maintained by the Ministry of Industry. The demand of various end-users of raw materials depend upon their utilization in different sectors. Various schemes of the Government are intended to provide the necessary boost. It is expected that during the current year, the schemes will have a positive impact.

Appointment of Lokpal in Insurance Sector

1115. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal to appoint Lok pal in the insurance sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the appointment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to appoint 'Lokpal' in the insurance sector. However, Govt. has recently notified the scheme of Ombudsman to resolve all complaints relating to settlement of claims on the part of insurance companies in cost effective, efficient and impartial manner. The basic features of the scheme are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Basic Features of Ombudsman Scheme:

In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (i) of