

excluding the date of deposit of the instruments for RBI local clearing. Withdrawals are allowed after completion of cheque return discipline. However, as per instructions issued by RBI to the commercial banks in respect of local cheques tendered for collection the customer's accounts should be credited and they should be allowed use of funds latest on the third working day from the date of acceptance of the cheques at counters. These instructions are applicable to all local cheques tendered for collection.

(b) SBI has reported that no such complaints appear to have been received by them in this regard, in the recent past.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Bharat Gold Mines Limited**

785. SHRI D.S. AHIRE:  
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for winding up of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts to revive the company;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for rejecting the rehabilitation scheme submitted by the ICICI for the revival of BGML?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (e) Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BHML), a Central Public Sector Undertaking, was referred to BIFR and declared sick in 1992 under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India was appointed by BIFR as the Operating Agency (O.A.) for the revival of BGML. The O.A.'s rehabilitation scheme, which, *inter-alia*, envisaged fresh infusion of funds, was not acceptable to the Government. It was decided by the Government in June 1997 to explore the possibility of associating a private co-promoter(s) with a view to rehabilitating BGML through the Joint Venture route. Accordingly, a Committee was constituted which has since

given its report. The future of BGML would be decided in accordance with the provisions of SICA.

[Translation]

#### **Outstanding Excise Duty**

786. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ:  
SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of excise duty outstanding for recovery, till date;

(b) whether the Government machinery has failed to recover the outstanding amount of excise duty; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Total amount of excise duty outstanding for recovery as on 31.12.98 is Rs. 7560.89 crores.

(b) and (c) There is no failure on the part of the Government. The assesses delay payment of excise dues until they exhaust all legal remedies right upto the apex Appellate Forum.

Due to stay granted by various courts, CEGAT and Appellate authorities etc. large amount of tax arrears has accumulated.

Special measures have been taken to get the stay vacated by filing urgent petitions in High Courts, Appellate Tribunals for either vacation of stay or for deciding the cases on priority basis. Wherever possible, bank guarantees are enforced. Efforts are also being made to realise the dues by taking persuasive/coercive/certificate action.

[English]

#### **Pay Scales to Teachers of Coal India Limited**

787. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: