

of which 220 were in losses as on 31.3.1999. A statement of State-wise details for the last three years is given in Statement.

(c) to (e) The subsidiary corporations have instructed by NTC (HC) to review the performance of each showroom from time to time and take decision regarding their closure.

Statement

State-wise List of Loss Making Showrooms

Sl.No.	State	As on		
		31.3.97	31.3.98	31.3.99
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	7	7
2.	Assam	3	2	1
3.	Bihar	12	13	15
4.	Gujarat	0	3	3
5.	Haryana	2	2	2
6.	Karnataka	0	22	22
7.	Kerala	0	16	15
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2	3	1
9.	Maharashtra	0	2	3
10.	Orissa	4	4	5
11.	Punjab	1	1	1
12.	Tamil Nadu	22	53	56
13.	Uttar Pradesh	49	46	36
14.	West Bengal	47	49	52
15.	UT/Pondicherry	0	0	1
Total		148	223	220

[Translation]

Posting of Junior Overmen

3722. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta has given its verdict on November 9, 1998 to appoint the selected candidates to the post of Overmen in Eastern Coalfields Limited whose interview was held in November, 1997 after bringing out the result within one month;

(b) if so, whether the selected candidates have been appointed;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in their appointment;

(d) whether the company has held the interview for the said post while about 194 overmen were surplus in the company in 1995;

(e) if so, the justification behind holding the interview;

(f) whether the Coal Company has filed an appeal in the Double Bench against this verdict;

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

(h) the steps being taken by the coal company to appoint the selected candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) In the matter of Writ Petition No.1416 of 1998 filed by Shri Rajender Prasad Rawani vs-Coal India Limited and others (including ECL) in the High Court of Calcutta on 9.11.98, the Hon'ble Court passed the following order:

"Having regard to the facts, I dispose of this application by directing the respondents concerned to intimate to the petitioner within a month from date the result of the interview and if the petitioner has been found to be successful, appropriate steps may be taken for offering employment to the petitioner on such basis."

Since the above orders was delivered ex-parte the management of ECL preferred an appeal in the Divisional Bench and the Hon'ble Court after its final hearing on 11.2.99 was pleased to dispose of the stay application inter-alia directing ECL not to recruit any junior overman without leave of the Court or untill disposal of the appeal. The matter is still subjudice.

(d) and (e) ECL had notified the vacancies for the post of Jr. Overman in the year 1994-95 based on the then exercise carried out in relation to requirement of statutory personnel in existing mines and new projects likely to come up. But the re-assessment carried out in 1998-99 indicated that ECL was facing the problems of financial crunch and surplus manpower in the company. The surplus manpower of overman was due to shrinkage of existing mines and reduction of requirement of statutory manpower.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) At present ECL is facing the problem of acute financial crunch and large surplus manpower including overmen. Fresh induction of manpower is, therefore, not possible.

(h) Till the matter is sub-judice in the Hon'ble Court, no further action can be taken by ECL.