

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4196
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2002
DISINVESTMENT OF HINDUSTAN NEWSPRINT LIMITED
ANANDRAO ADSUL;N.T. SHANMUGAM

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have initiated the disinvestment process in the Hindustan Newsprint Limited (HNL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the eligibility criteria laid down for the companies who are bidding;
- (d) by when the process is likely to be completed; and
- (e) the alternative measures envisaged to accommodate the existing staff of the Company and the number of employees who have opted for VRS till date?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLLABHBHAI KATHIRIA)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The advertisement for 'Expression of Interest' was issued on 16.1.2002.
- (c) & (d) The bidders are required to have 5 years manufacturing experience in any sector or having a Group company with 3 years paper/paperboard/packaging/printing pulp/newsprint manufacturing experience and net worth (excluding revaluation reserves) of over Rs.1500 million. The time taken to complete the process will depend on the response of the bidders.
- (e) The shareholders agreement would provide adequate protection to existing employees interests in conformity with the approach followed in other Public Sector Undertakings where disinvestment has taken place. Till date 256 employees have opted for VRS.