

Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Amendment Act, 1993 by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction on 18.12.95.

The company has been facing acute resource crunch owing to following reasons:-

- (i) Low administered prices of coal fixed in the past not being commensurate with the high cost of production.
- (ii) Payment of arrears of salary and wages pursuant to the National coal Wage Agreement-V.
- (iii) Low productivity, particularly in the underground coal mines which are in a large number in the company
- (iv) Large outstanding dues receivable by the company on account of credit sales to State Electricity Boards, power houses and Steel Authority of India Limited.
- (v) Poor geo-mining conditions coupled with built-up areas and mine fires as well as inundation in coal mines.

(c) In March, 1996, the Government deregulated pricing of coking coal and A,B and C grades of non-coking coal. Accordingly, Coal India Limited (CIL) has revised the prices of these grades with effect from 1.4.96 and again from 20.10.96. These revisions have improved the sales realisation of BCCL.

The Government has also granted waiver of CIL's overdue nominal interest on outstanding plan loans upto 31.3.92 to the tune of Rs. 891.75 crores. A part of this waived amount was decided to be utilised to wipe out the accumulated loss of BCCL. The share of BCCL came to Rs. 502.75 crores and the same has been accounted for in the financial account of the company for the year 1995-96

As on 31.3.96, the paid-up capital of the company stood at Rs. 1122 crores and the accumulated losses at Rs. 1191 crores, thereby bringing the negative net worth down to Rs. 61 crores. The CIL plans to adopt some other methods like financial restructuring and further financial support to BCCL to revive the ailing company.

New Customs Plan to Detect Frauds

496. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has submitted a new customs strategic plan at the regional contact point meeting of the customs administrations of the Asia-Pacific of the world customs organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome of the said meeting; and

(d) the steps taken to detect frauds by the customs authorities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. India has submitted a new Regional strategic Plan on Customs at the Sixth Meeting of the Regional Contact Points of the Customs administrations in September, 1996.

(b) The said Regional Strategic Plan identifies following five objectives that the Customs Administrations would strive to achieve over the next two years (1997-1998).

- (1) Enhancement of the effectiveness of the customs Administrations.
- (2) Harmonisation and Simplification of Customs Procedures and Practices.
- (3) Effective implementation of the WTO Agreement on Valuation.
- (4) Uniform application, updating and promotion of the Harmonised System.
- (5) Human Resource Development.

(c) The Regional Contact Points Meeting approved the plan, subject to its endorsement by the Heads of Customs and also agreed to operationalise the same from January 1, 1997.

(d) The Plan has also identified steps to enhance co-operation amongst Customs Administrations and for greater sharing of information with a view to improve detection of frauds by them. These steps include negotiation of bilateral or multilateral customs co-operation agreements, creation and strengthening of the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office at Hong Kong, Feasibility study for a mechanism to exchange commercial documents and training of officers in enforcement matters.

Besides, the Customs Department is making constant endeavour to upgrade the preventive and intelligence machinery and the skills of its officers and to improve collection of information and intelligence and targeting of risk-prone consignments through the increased use of computerisation and profiling of importers and exporters.

Production of Coffee

497. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for producing coffee in the Eighth Plan period and the achievements made so far; and

(b) the projection made for the production of coffee in the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The targets and achievements in the production of coffee