

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3402
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2009
EMPLOYEES OF BOGL
Haque Shri Sk. Saidul

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

(a) whether a large number of employees of M/s. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL) at Durgapur have been denied the Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) benefits; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to grant them VSS benefits for smooth liquidation?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) & (b): M/s. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.(BOGL) at Durgapur was a sick company and under reference to BIFR since 1992. BIFR ordered its winding up on 19.6.2003. With the approval of the Cabinet, it was decided to accept the decision of the BIFR and take action for closure of the company under ID, Act, 1947 after offering VSS to all the existing employees. The company, accordingly opened VSS from 3.8.2006 for three months. Only 25 employees (18 non-executives and 7 officers) applied for VSS out of which the Management recommended the case of 17 non-executives. VSS was not recommended by the Company to the 7 officers on the ground that it would take some time for phase-wise reallocation of jobs. One non-executive posted in Chennai was not recommended VSS due to operational reasons. In the meantime, on 9.7.2007, the Hon'ble Court ordered winding up of the Company and appointed Official Liquidator to take over its assets.

2. On a prayer from the employees, the Hon'ble High court of Calcutta in order dated 7.5.2008 directed for release of Rs. 199.15 lakh to the Official Liquidator (OL) for payment to the ex-employees of BOGL-VSS to 16 employees and retirement due of one employee (Rs. 87.15 lakhs), pending salary and wages from 1.1.2006 to 31.3.2007 (Rs. 98.00 lakhs) and statutory dues from 1.1.2006 to 31.3.2007 (Rs. 14.00 lakhs). The Official Liquidator was directed to make the payment after proper verification of the claims. As per information from OL, Rs. 87.15 lakhs on account of VSS has been disbursed but the remaining amount is lying unspent as many of the ex-employees have refused to receive it.

3. Six employees out of the 25, who were not recommended by the BOGL management for VSS have now requested the Government in their representation dated 21.11.2009 to give them the benefit.

4. Another group of 26 employees had filed a Writ Petition in 2008 before the Calcutta High Court praying for VSS benefits, stating that they had applied for the same within the stipulated period. However, on inspection of the records of the company, through the OL, their applications were not found to have been received in the Personnel Department of the Company.