

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) India continues to remain on the Priority Watch List under Special 301 law of the US since 1994.

(b) to (d) India has been put on this list by the US government, because, according to them, India fails to provide adequate intellectual property protection. India, through its submissions at the WTO, has apprised the multilateral trade community that it would avail of the full transition period available to it under the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement. In the meanwhile, India has agreed to make available interim arrangements required to be made under Articles 70.8 and 70.9 of the TRIPS Agreement.

#### Reopening of Taj at Night

4446. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reopen World famous Taj Mahal of Agra for the tourists at night;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (c) Government do not propose to reopen World famous Taj Mahal at Agra for the tourists at night for the present due to security considerations.

[English]

#### Voluntary Retirement Scheme

4447. DR. SAROJA V. :  
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :  
SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees who have accepted the voluntary retirement but not yet paid the benefit of the VRS package, PSUs-wise;

(b) the reasons for not giving the benefit of VRS to them;

(c) the details of the budget provisions made for the current year for different PSUs;

(d) the total amount disbursed so far; and

(e) the number of workers redeployed after their retirement under this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The PSU-wise Statement on Budget allocation for current year is given in statement attached.

(d) No amount has so far been disbursed in the current year.

(e) The number of workers redeployed under the scheme of Employment Assistance and Counselling is 6746.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Rs. in Crores
		Budget Allocation (1998-99)
1	2	3
1.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	0.40
2.	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited	1.25
3.	Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	0.15
4.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	80.00
5.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	80.00
6.	Mica Trading Corporation Limited	0.60
7.	Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	1.00
8.	Indian Telephone Industries	10.00
9.	Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd.	6.85
10.	Garden Reach Shipbuilders Ltd.	1.00
11.	Mazagaon Dock Ltd.	0.50
12.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	1.00
13.	Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.	8.75
14.	Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.	2.35
15.	Engineering Projects (I) Ltd.	1.00
16.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.	6.25
17.	H.M.T. (including PTL)	14.25
18.	Andrew Yule and Co. Ltd.	1.00
19.	Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.	1.00
20.	Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	0.50
21.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	5.00
22.	National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.	0.75
23.	Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.	0.75
24.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	6.30
25.	Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.	16.85

1	2	3
26.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	0.15
27.	Bird Group of Companies	0.80
28.	SAIL (for IISCO)	6.70
29.	SAIL (for VISL)	2.70
30.	Sponge Iron India Ltd.	0.15
31.	Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (I) Ltd.	0.75
32.	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.	2.70
33.	Indian Road Construction Company Ltd.	0.40
34.	National Jute Manufacturers Corporation	5.00
35.	Jute Corporation of India	0.30
36.	National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd.	2.85
37.	Electronics Corporation of India Ltd.	3.00

#### Waiving of Loans

4448. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to waive off loans amounting to Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 50,000 granted to farmers and unemployed youths of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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) and (b) Government had announced a scheme known as "Debt Relief Scheme for the borrowers in the State of Jammu and Kashmir" to all Scheduled Commercial Banks/Financial Institutions on 26th May, 1997. As per the scheme all eligible loans taken from Banks/Financial Institutions upto and inclusive of Rs. 50,000 as principal, together with outstanding interest as on the effective date i.e. 30.8.96 in the State of Jammu and Kashmir for specified business activities viz. tourism, transport, small scale industry, trade sector, hotel, house boat business, retail trade etc. are to be written off by the Banks/Financial Institutions. This scheme, however, does not cover loans provided to Agriculture Sector/Farmers.

#### Employment to local people of Coal Mines of MCL

4449. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure/policy adopted by the Mahanadi Coalfield Limited to give employment in its coal mines, particularly in Basundhara area in Sundergarh of Orissa;

(b) whether the Local Management is totally apathy towards giving employment to the local people;

(c) if so, the steps propose to be taken in this regard;

(d) the details of manpower planning of the coal project in Basundhara area, category-wise;

(e) the number out of these have been employed locally and by transferring from other project, separately; and

(f) the future planning of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The manpower requirement in MCL including Basundhara area is met from the following internal resources to the extent possible :

- (i) From amongst the land losers, whose land is acquired by the company for mining & other activities. The employment to land losers is given as per the guidelines formulated by the Government of Orissa.
- (ii) From amongst the dependent of those workers who die while in service or are permanently disabled, as per National Coal Wage Agreement.
- (iii) Transfer from other areas of MCL where there is surplus manpower.

The recruitment/deployment of highly skilled technical manpower as well as executives is done by Coal India Ltd., as per laid down procedure.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

(d) The category-wise details of manpower deployed at Basundhara Coal Project areas as on 1.7.98 is as under :

Executive	40
<i>Non-Executive</i>	
Monthly rated	40
Daily rated	200
Total	280

(e) 150 persons have been given employment under the land losers employment scheme. Employment has also been given to 9 persons through recruitment whose names were sponsored by the local employment exchange. 65 skilled & technical persons mostly belonging to the State of Orissa have been transferred from other projects/ companies to Basundhara area after its formation.

(f) At present there is an embargo on all outside recruitment in CIL including MCL.