

- Group III High capacity Longwall mines.
- Group IV Losing mines with difficult working conditions.

For Group IV mines, the ICICI could suggest no viable solution and recommended phasing out of such mines. 64 mines of ECL located in 6 Areas of the company belong to the Group IV mines highlighted in the ICICI report.

(d) and (e) The Board of Directors of ECL in their meeting held on 22.10.1998 passed a resolution to close down those 64 mines. This resolution was passed by the ECL Board in context of the acute financial problems besetting the company for a long time. However, no steps as prescribed under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for retrenchment of work-men has been taken by the ECL management because discussions are under way with the Trade Unions in an effort to evolve an acceptable solution to the financial problem of ECL. A fresh package for turnaround of ECL has been proposed which is under the consideration of the Trade Unions.

Joint Ventures in Technology Transfer

1628. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH :
SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of joint ventures operating in the country involving technology transfer;
- (b) the total number of such ventures introduced through automatic route despite the foreign companies already having joint ventures in the same or allied fields; and
- (c) the amount of Foreign Direct Investment involved in such ventures?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) 14551 proposals involving foreign financial and technical collaboration with total Foreign Direct Investment amounting to Rs. 181391.55 crore have been approved from January 1991 upto December, 31, 1998. As per Press Note No. 18 of 1998 Series dated 14.12.1998 read with Press Released dt. 14.1.1999 foreign financial/technical collaborators with previous or existing joint ventures in India can no longer access the Automatic

Approval Route for promoting new ventures (either partially or wholly owned) in the same or allied activity in which there are/or have been existing/earlier ventures involving the same collaborator. No such case has been reported after the issue of the above said Press Note.

Use of Rail Wagons by BCCL

1629. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of rail wagons requisitioned for despatch of coal by Bharat Coking Coal Limited during March 1997 to January 1999;

(b) the number of rail wagons actually utilised by BCCL during this period;

(c) the average per day demurrage paid by BCCL on account of non-utilisation of rail wagons during the stipulated period;

(d) the reasons for non-utilisation of rail wagons as per requisition;

(e) the details of rail wagons which could not be utilised and were returned to the railways; and

(f) the duration for which the rail wagons were detained on rail sidings even beyond the prescribed duration alongwith the siding-wise number of rail wagons detained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) During the period 3/97 to 1/99, BCCL on an average requisitioned 3875 Four Wheeler Wagons per day.

(b) Railways supplied on an average 2651 four wheeler wagons per day and all wagons were utilised fully barring a few defective/unsuitable wagons.

(c) Demurrage paid for detention of wagons during March, 1997, to March, 1998 was about Rs. 2.06 lakh per day. The demurrage for the period April, 1998 to January, 1999 has not been reconciled with Railways.

(d) The reasons for detention of wagons include:—

- (i) Supply of covered wagons on odd hours at sidings where manual loading by female workers is not possible at night.