

[Translation]

Committee to inquire Losses of Coal Companies

*560. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a high level investigating team to ascertain the reasons of losses being suffered by the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries and to suggest measures for removing the managerial inefficiency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

(c) The profit position of Coal India Limited (CIL) as a whole has been improving considerably since 1994-95. In order to improve the financial and operational efficiency of the loss making subsidiary companies of CIL, turn-around packages suggested by the company and CIL are examined in the Ministry of Coal for implementation. Managerial inefficiency is not the only reason for losses being incurred by such subsidiary companies of CIL.

[English]

Credit Flow to SSIs

*561. SHRI S.B. THORAT:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether S.L. Kapoor Committee set up to review the working of credit delivery system for SSI units has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of important observations and recommendations made in the report;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of follow up action taken and the action plan prepared for 1998-99 for streamlining the credit flow to the SSI units?

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) As per information made available by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), S.L. Kapur committee set up in December 1997 to review the working of credit delivery system for SSI units has submitted its report to RBI on 30th June 1998.

(b) Special treatment to smaller among small industries, enhancement in the quantum of composite loans,

removal of procedural difficulties in the path of SSI advances, sorting out issues relating to mortgage of land, including removal of stamp duty and permitting equitable mortgages, allow in access to low cost funds to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for refinancing SSI loans, non-obtention of collaterals for loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs, setting up of a collateral reserve fund to provide support to first generation of entrepreneurs who find it difficult to furnish collateral securities or third party guarantees, setting up of a Small Industries Infrastructure Development Fund for developing industrial areas in/around metropolitan and urban areas, change in the definition of sick SSI units, giving statutory powers to State Level Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIIC) setting up of a separate guarantee organisation and opening of 1000 additional specialised branches are amongst significant recommendations made by the committee.

The Committee has also recommended enhancing of SIDBI's role and status to match with that of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), suggestions towards technological upgradation of various sub-sectors of SSI, granting 20 per cent additional *ad hoc* limits to SSIs from banks and setting up of a reconstruction fund with initiative and initial corpus from the Government of India and the RBI to enable branch managers to provide, if necessary, initial corpus margin money for such additional facilities earmarking atleast 40 per cent of resources of SIDBI to tiny sector, close co-operation between State finance corporations (SFCs) and public sector banks for jointly providing term loans and working capital limit to SSIs, NABARD to set up a fund similar to National Equity Fund to make facilities available to rural industrial units with project costs upto Rs. 10 lakh, appointment of separate ombudsman in each bank for grievances not covered by RBI's banking ombudsman scheme, training and motivation for staff of regional rural banks, urban co-operative banks and SFCs.

(c) and (d) RBI has reported that the recommendations of the committee need to be examined in consultation with various agencies such as Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Indian Banks Association (IBA) banks and Government departments including State Governments. RBI is taking necessary steps in this regard.

Export of Latex

5403. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to export latex to any country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been made to determine the effect of the unrestricted import of polyurethane by the latex industry in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The Government permits export of latex and there is no restriction on such exports. There are

however, no exports of Latex undertaken by Government to any country.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Closure of Birla Textiles, Swatantra Bharat Mills and DCM Silk Mills

5404. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of closure of Birla Textiles, Swatantra Bharat Mills and DCM silk mills functioning in Delhi have been closed since November, 1996 rendering thousands of employees jobless;

(b) whether the management of M/s Birla Textiles and other industries except Ayodhya Textiles Mills has not paid the salaries and additional retrenchment benefits of six years to the workmen;

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the management of the said mills and to ensure payment of salary and compensation to the women;

(d) whether the Government intend to move the Supreme Court of India for reviewing its decision dated December 31, 1996, permitting relocation of textile mills beyond NCR; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):

(a) As per information available, M/s Birla Textiles and M/s Swatantra Bharat mills were closed on 30.11.1996 consequent upon an order of the Supreme Court. As regards DCM mills, the Government of Delhi permitted the mill to close down from 1.4.1989, vide its order dated 30.3.1989.

(b) and (c) As per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 8.7.96, M/s. Birla Textiles, Delhi informed the workmen that those who are willing to shift to the place of relocation, 'Baddi' (Himachal Pradesh) will be paid shifting bonus and those who are not willing to shift will be paid compensation as per rules, along with additional compensation equivalent to one year's wages. Out of 2522 workmen, 577 workers opted for final payment. 7 workers opted to shift to 'Baddi', and the management has paid shifting bonus to these workers. In the case of the remaining 1938 workers who have not responded to the offer made by the mill, in terms of Supreme Court directions the management is reported to have sent full and final payment through cheques to their home address, but these are stated to have been refused.

As regards M/s. Swatantra Bharat Mills, there were 2126 workers at the time of closure, i.e. on 30.11.96. It is reported that a substantial number of workers have been paid their shifting bonus.

(d) and (e) Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi filed a petition before the Supreme Court to review its order dated 31.12.96, submitting that industries which are

not relocated in National Capital Region (NCR) may be treated as closed and the workmen employed in these industries may be given compensation at par with industries which fail to relocate and decided to close. This petition was dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Staff Harassment in ITDC Hotel

5405. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Women alleges rape, harassment by Hotel Kanishka colleagues" appearing in the Indian Express dated May 27, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether such incidents of harassment to working women in ITDC are quite common and the matter is hushed up with the help of its Vigilance and Security Division officials for their vested interests;

(d) the number of complaints of alleged harassments of all kinds to working women in ITDC have been received during the last three years ending May, 1998 along with action taken in each case; and

(e) whether Government are considering to punish the guilty officials especially the concerned officers who are fully responsible for the security of female staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The press report mentions about the repeated sexual harassment of a 24 year old woman employee of Kanishka Hotel of ITDC by certain colleagues over past two years and also that no action was taken by the Hotel Management on a complaint filed by her in August, 1996, in this regard.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Such incidents are very rare. ITDC has a strength of about 7900 employees and during the last three years only five complaints of alleged harassment to women employees were received. The complaints were examined, but a allegations were not substantiated in four out of the five cases. in the fifth case which pertains to the harassment of the women employee in Kanishka Hotel, mentioned in the Press Report; based on the investigation report, charge sheets for major penalty have been issued to two employees, one of whom has also been suspended; three senior officers have been issued advisory memos to be more careful and six employees have been admonished.

Clearance of Cheques by RBI

5406. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days required for clearance of RBI cheques deposited in the State Bank of India Branch located within the radius of one kilometre of Reserve Bank of India;