

(b) The VR Scheme offered in June 2001 had 91 employees opting for VRS. Of these, the SCI Management rejected 12 applications and 79 employees were allowed to proceed on VRS. Of this number, 66 were officers and 13 were staff members. The second VR Scheme had 208 applications for VRS. Of these the SCI Management accepted the applications of 54 Staff members and 123 Officers. The applications of 18 Officers were rejected and 13 employees withdrew their applications.

(c) Under the first Scheme, the *ex-gratia* amount paid to 79 employees was Rs. 6.89 crore. Under the second Scheme, the outgo towards *ex-gratia* payments to Officers and Staff is estimated to be Rs. 14.29 crore.

Sale of surplus land to private bidders

45. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to sell the huge tracts of surplus land laying in the vicinity of some of the major ports in the country to private bidders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether before arriving at the decision, it has been ensured that the proposed step does not affect adversely the future expansion plans of these port trusts; and

(d) the estimated return from the proposed sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) No such proposal except from Mumbai Port Trust for sale of excess land has been received. The proposal of Mumbai Port Trust for sale of land not required for port use includes sale of 28.39 hectares at Titwala 3.63 hectares of other small vacant plots at different locations in the city ranging from 24 sq.mtrs. to 3000 sq.mtrs. and sale of let out land of 306.75 hectares let out to 2951 lessees/tenants.

(c) The land proposed for sale is not required for Port's future use and the sale of these lands will not affect Port's future expansion plan.

(d) The sale of vacant land depends on the market response. In case of the proposed sale of let out land, there are a number of variables involved in the computation of the sale price, and therefore, it is not possible to accurately estimate the returns at this stage.