

tonnes of middlings. Coal companies would endeavour to meet the demand, based on the projections of consumers located, in various states.

Revival Package for BGL

3461. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees (officers and workmen) of Bharat Gold Mines Limited have submitted a revival package to the BIFR;

(b) if so, whether the same has been examined by Government;

(c) whether a hearing has been fixed on 16th May, 2000 by BIFR to examine the suggestions/objections to the show-cause notice for winding up;

(d) if so, whether before a final decision by BIFR, Government had issued an ultimatum to the employees to opt for VRS by 31st March, 2000, failing which they would be liable for retrenchment; and

(e) if so, the reasons for issuing such a directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. SMT. RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) BIFR has not referred the same to the Government of India for examination.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) is a good will gesture extended by the Government to the employees to exercise their option by a specified date. The Government had made a submission before BIFR that it would have no objection if Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) was wound up under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, (SICA), 1985, and that it was prepared to offer the benefit of VRS to all the employees on its roll as on 31.3.1999, and that the offer of VRS would be kept open till 31.3.2000. Further, the Government intimated BGML, *inter-alia*, about the implications in respect of employees not opting for VRS by the dateline. The intimation was in the nature of a clarificatory letter.