

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (b) Government have decided that in case of Public Sector Enterprises involving strategic considerations such as Defence related, Atomic energy, etc., Government will continue to retain majority holding.

Privatisation of Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd.

†1152. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to privatise Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd. situated at Allahabad or to sell its 74% shares;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether privatisation of this Public Enterprise would not affect national interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) As a part of restructuring strategy, Government in principle have taken a decision to convert Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited (BPCL), a BIFR referred sick PSU, into a joint venture company with disinvestment upto 74%. The joint venture partner would be expected to provide modern technology, managerial inputs, finances and market support to the Company.

(c) No Sir. A joint venture may, infact, enable the company to source finances, modern technology and managerial inputs enabling it to contribute more to the national economy.

Losses suffered by PSEs

1153. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total projected loss of public sector enterprises in the year 1999-2000;

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for these huge losses suffered by our Public Enterprises; and

(c) whether it is because of the out-dated technology, or lack of exit policy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As on 31.3.98, the period upto which the latest information is available, out of 236 operating PSEs, 134 PSEs earned a profit of Rs. 20,266 crores, 100 PSEs incurred loss amounting to Rs. 6,541 crores and 2 PSEs neither earned profits nor incurred losses. Thus PSEs, as a whole, earned a net profit of Rs. 13,725 crores during 1997-98. However, no information on projected losses is maintained centrally.

(b) and (c) These reasons for losses are enterprise specific. However, some of the common reasons apart from outdated technology and excess manpower, are obsolete plant and machinery, low capacity utilisation, increase in input cost, resource crunch, heavy interest burden, etc.

VRS in PSUs

1154. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of certain Public Sector undertakings, which are on the verge of closure, are being offered Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of such Public Sector Undertakings which have introduced such schemes for its employees;

(c) what will be the fate of the young officers who have not yet opted for such schemes;

(d) whether there is any proposal to utilise their experience in other public sector undertakings or any scheme to give preference to them in allotment of any agency;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?