

(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 However, some of the common reasons apart from outdated technology and excess manpower, are obsolete plant and machinery, low capacity utilisation, increase in input cost, resource crunch, heavy interest burden,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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (f) A model Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is already in place. Many PSUs have already availed of the scheme. Personnel who do not opt for the scheme will continue in service. Under the VRS the employee receives either (i) 45 days salary for each year of service put in or, (ii) salary for the balance period of service left, whichever is less. Eligible employee should have completed 10 years of service or 40 years of age.

In respect of 10 sick units of the Department of Heavy Industry which may be declared non-revivable, Government had approved a scheme of Voluntary Separation (VSS), with benefits equivalent to those available under VRS. However, under the VSS employees who have completed not less than 30 years of service were eligible for a maximum of 60 months salary as compensation. There is no arrangement to accommodate personnel who might be displaced in other PSUs.

Excess Staff with BHEL Unit in Bhopal

1155. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state the excess staff with BHEL Unit in Bhopal:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. BALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been focussing on optimisation of manpower in its units. A Voluntary Retirement Scheme was introduced in Bhopal unit in July, 1999. 2,476 employees have availed of it. At present there is no surplus manpower in BHEL's unit in Bhopal.

VRS for PSUs Employees

1156. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) how many employees of PSUs have, till date, taken the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) indicating number thereof, (PSU-wise);