153 Written Answers

claims received from various States/ UTs.

(c) As the subject matter is a continuous process, time frame can not be specified.

सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों के लिए आरक्षित

3048. श्री राधवजी : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के उन खनिजों के क्या-क्या नाम हैं जो सकरारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों के लिए आरक्षित गए हैं,

(ख) क्या यह सच हैं कि सरकारी क्षेत्रों के उपक्रमों ने इस संबंध में आरक्षण का लाभ नहीं उठाया हैं,

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं, और

(घ) सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों के लिए उपरोक्त खनिजों को कब तक आरक्षित रखे जाने का विचार हैं ?

इस्तात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमेश बैस) : (क) से (घ) खान एवं खनिज (विनियमन एवं विकास) अधिनियम 1957 (एम0 एल0 म0 आर0 डी0 एक्ट, 1957) और इसके अधीन बनाए गए नियमों के प्रावधानों के अनुसार खनिज रियायत राज्य सरकार द्वारा प्रदान की जाती हैं । तथापि केन्द्र सरकार किसी खनिज के आरक्षण की दृष्टि से और राज्य सरकार के परामर्श के पश्चात् अथवा इसके विलोमतः कोई भी ऐसा क्षेत्र, जोकि पहले से किसी भी पूवेक्षण लाइसेंस अथवा पूवेक्षण कार्य करने के लिए खनन पट्टे अथवा सकरारी कम्पनी के जरिए खनन कार्य करने अथवा निगत के स्वामित्व अथवा राजपत्र में अधिसूचना के माध्यम से इसके द्वारा नियंत्रित क्षेत्र का आरक्षण कर सकती हैं ।

उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार, मध्य प्रदेश में केन्द्र सरकार अथवा राज्य सरकार के सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों द्वारा जोज खनिज आंशिक रूप से अथवा पूर्णतः विदोहन के लिए आरक्षित रखे गए हैं ये हैं – हीरा, तांबा, लौह अयस्क डोलोमाइट, बाक्साइट, फोस्पोराइट, स्वर्ण, मैगनीज ओर, मारबल चूनापत्थर/शैल, पायरोलाइल ट, कोरूण्डम टिन तथा कोयला।

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम राष्ट्रीय हित में विभिन्न खनिजों के विदोहन, उपयोग और विपणन कार्य में पहले से ही लगे हुए हैं जो खनिज आधारित उद्योगों की आवश्कयताओं की पूर्ति करने के अलावा प्रत्यक्ष एवं परोख रूप् से रोजगार के अवसर प्रदान कर रहे हैं। एम0 एम0 आर0 डी0 एक्ट, 1957 की धारा 17क की उपधारा (1 क) या उपधारा (2) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्ति के अनुसार केन्द्र सरकार अथवा राज्य सरकार को यह अधिकार दिया गया हैं, कि वह खनिज रियायतों के अन्तर्गत पहले से कवर न किए गए क्षेत्रों को केन्द्र अथवा राज्य सरकार के नियंत्रणधीन अथवा स्वामित्व वाली कम्पनी या निगम जैसा भी मामला हो के पक्ष में आरक्षित कर सकती हैं तथा इसके लिए प्रासंगिक अधिसूचना की वैधता अवधि के लिए कोई समय सीमा निर्धारित नहीं की गई हैं।

Revival of IISCO

3049. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be plesed to state:

(a) whether during recent Russian Prime Minister's visit to New Delhi, India has sought russia's consent in using funds from Rupee-Ruble account to revive the Indian Iron and Steel Company through a joint venture with the Russian company Tyazhpromexport; and

(b) if so, what precise proposal was mooted and what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) IISCO is a sick company and has been under reference to BIFR since June, 1994 for determination of measures in regard to the future of the company. SAIL have submitted a proposal, which inter alia includes writing off of accumulated losses, to revive IISCO in a Joint Venture (IV) partnership with M/s. Tvazhpromexport (TPE) of Russia. This proposal is dependent on the use of Rupee Debt Funds for which an inter Governmental Agreement between the Government of Russia and Government of India is required. The project envisage an investment of Rs. 2107 crores. Govt. of

155 Written Answers

of

India's efforts in this direction culminated in the signing of a Protocol in the Fifth Session Indo-Russian inter Governmental Commission in November, 1998. In the Protocol, it has been proposed to use a part of India Rupee Debts as contribution of the Russian side to the Joint Venture Company.

Accordingly, Govt, of India have already formally presented to the Russian side the draft of an agreement which could be signed between the two countires. The response of the Russian Govt, is avaited. However, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

Down Gradation of SAIL

3050. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that CRISIL has lately down graded the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) from category 'A' (adequately safe) to BBB (moderate safety);

(b) if so, main reasons to which such down gradation was attributable; and

(c) the steps being taken to secure restoration of 'A' category to SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The CRISIL has attributed the following factors for down gradation:---

* Increased pressures on sales volumes and realisations.

* Unfavourable capital structure and increased losses due to high financial charges because of high leverage.

* Inability of the Company to generate sufficient cash accruals on account of poor demand conditions and competition.

* Delay in getting full benefits of modernisation.

(c) SAIL has taken the following steps for improving the performance:

* Greater emphasis on cost control measures.

* Introduction of Voluntary Retire- ment Scheme (VRS) for employees.

* Improvement in techno-economic parameters.

* Increasing sales through aggressive and customer oriented marketing.

* Exploring new ways to bridge the resource gaps through business restructuring initiatives.

Government have also taken following steps to improve the profitability of steel industry including SAIL and to overcome the present problems:-

- (i) To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S) has launched a National Campaign,
- To reduce input costs for steel (ii) making, the special import duty on several imputs such as coaking coal (ash content <12%), metalurgical coke, ferro nickel, charge nickel and nickel oxide sinters, low silica limestone and graphite cletrodcs (>28") has been waived,
- (iii) Anti-dumping duty on Hot Rolled Coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has been imposed,
- (iv) Rationalization of Duty Entitlement Pass Bok (DEPB) rates for steel exports has been carried out to boost exports.
- (v) A Steel Exporter's Forum has been set up to help steel exporters overcome bottlenecks in exports.
- (vi) Enhanced project financing to steel sector by All India Financial Institutions and relaxation of External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) norms has been recommended.
- (vii) Government has set up an Empowered Committee to examine and assist "specific Research and Development Projects to improve