

Accumulated losses of loss making PSEs

2329. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the accumulated losses of loss making PSEs at the end of March, 2001;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted by Government for identification of factors responsible for their incurring losses;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to tone up their financial health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The details of accumulated losses of loss making PSEs as on 31.3.2000, the period till which information is available, is given in Public Enterprises Survey 1999- 2000, which was laid in the Rajya Sabha on 27.2.2001 and is a published document.

(b) and (c) The reasons for losses are enterprise specific. Some of the reasons include inherited sickness in case of taken over units from the private sector, obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, low capacity utilisation, excess manpower, financial resource crunch, high input costs, heavy interest burden, weak marketing strategies etc.

(d) The performance improvement is a continuous process. Enterprise specific steps are taken by the Administrative Ministries/Departments/ Management of PSUs from time to time. Some of the steps taken include managerial and financial restructuring, formation of joint ventures, upgradation of technology, modernization of plants and machinery, cost control measures, rationalization of manpower, improved marketing strategies etc. as the case maybe.

Outstanding amount of retired employees of HEC, Ranchi

2330. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 62 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 2001 and state:

- (a) the details of the outstanding amount of the retired employees who retired during the year 2000 from Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi;

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(b) the details of the plan chalked out to pay the statutory dues to the said employees in a definite time frame;

(c) whether the Corporation has approached his Ministry for release of additional funds regarding payment of outstanding retirement dues to the above said employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAIKATHIRIA): (a) The total outstanding amount of the employees retired during 2000 from Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited (HEC), Ranchi is Rs. 4.88 crore.

(b) to (d) The company is trying to raise resources through liquidation of its outstanding dues and sale of Non Performing Assets (NPAs). It has also requested the Government for non-plan loan assistance.

Foreign Investment in Print Media

2331. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a), whether some foreign companies have expressed their keenness to make investment in print media in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the policy of Government with regard to giving permission to foreign companies for participation in TV software and film; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No specific proposal in this regard has been received by the Government.

(c) and (d) There is no restriction on foreign equity in proposals related to production of TV software. In film sector also, 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permitted subject to certain sectoral guidelines.