

[12 December, 2006]

RAJYASABHA

(b) whether this Act has been suspended to promote a free market for foodgrains;

(c) if so, to what extent these actions have helped in catching the price-rise; and

(d) if so, what are the other steps Government proposed to take to control the price rise of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Government has issued a Central Order No. 1373(E) dated 29.8.2006 by virtue of which the words or expressions made in respect of purchase, movement, sale, supply, distribution or storage for sale in the "Removal of (Licensing requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs Order, 2002" notified on 15.02.2002 have been kept in abeyance in respect of wheat and pulses for a period of six months or till further order, whichever is earlier. All State Governments/UTs were requested to implement this order by issuing either a fresh control order or reviving the old orders for fixing stock limits and also to take effective action using the powers vested with them under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to bring out hoarded stock of these items in the open market.

It has been the continuous effort of the Government to keep price rise under check. Accordingly, various measures have been taken recently in this direction. Those include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, lowering of duties, effective management of supply and demand of essential commodities especially wheat and pulses through import, strengthening of the public distribution system and curbing export of certain commodities.

Wage revision of employees of BSCL

2202. SHRI G. SANJEEVA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL) is making operating profit for the last two consecutive years; and

(b) if so, the reasons for which employees of BSCL are being denied to get their legitimate wages/salary revision due for more than 19 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) As per audited profit and loss account, the financial position of BSCL during the last two years is as under:

	(Rs. in crores)	
	2004-05	2005-06
Operating Profit	10.77	3.64
Cash Profit	3.48	1.33
Net loss	118.72	442.74
Accumulated loss	723.89	1166.63
Networth	(-)635.24	(-)1042.13

(b) All categories of employees of BSCL have been allowed wage/pay revision upto early 1990s. However, it was not possible to implement the wage settlement/pay revision any more as the company became sick and was put under the purview of BIFR since 1994. The wage settlement/pay revision of the employees is governed by laid down norms, procedures and guidelines as applicable in a BIFR referred company like BSCL.

Criteria for Navratna status

2203. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eight PSUs aspire for the Navratna status which would allow them financial and operational autonomy for becoming a global player;

(b) what is the qualifying criteria for becoming a member to the elite Navratna club;

(c) whether NALCO and SCI has already made a cut; and

(d) what Government are doing for getting the Navratna status for these eight companies for want of removing various restrictions?