

- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the action being taken by Government to de-notify the liquidation process of DMIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

Strengthening of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)

2839. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to further strengthen the Serious Fraud Investigation Office;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when it is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the recommendations made by Vepa Kamesam committee, it is proposed to give statutory recognition to SFIO. Besides, powers such as treating its investigation report as a report filed by a Police Officer, giving SFIO power to issue letter of requests (letter Rogatory) in cases involving companies having business/interest outside the country and definition of the term 'fraud' alongwith its punishment are also proposed to be included, subject to due approvals, in the revised Companies Bill for strengthening its enforcement framework. On the enactment of the new Companies Bill, these legislative provisions will become effective. Besides the legislative measures, 58 additional posts have been created in SFIO and it has been decided to set up regional offices at New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Ahmedabad for effective oversight, monitoring and prosecution of cases.

Success of low temperature thermal desalination technology

2840. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) to what extent the Low Temperature Thermal Desalination Technology helps for conversion of seawater into potable water;
- (b) how this technology is different from the conventional technology;