

(a) whether government have decided to close down six or more unviable public sector undertakings on the recommendations of a Government appointed Expert Group, till date, as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 21st June, 2000.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) whether Government have earmarked any amount for making payment to workers who may seek/accept Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to take action for closure of six PSEs, which have been considered unviable after considering the recommendations of the Expert Group set up to explore the possibilities of revival. Government have also decided to make payments under the Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS), to the remaining employees of these PSEs, which would be substantially higher than the compensation available under the ID Act. This decision will apply to about 3700 employees in these PSEs, namely, Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC), National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd. (NBCIL), Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd. (BPMEL), Weighbird India Ltd. (WIL), Rehabilitation Industries Corporation (RIC) and Tannery and Footwear Corporation Ltd. (TAFECO).

(c) An amount of 200 Crores has been approved by the Government for the purpose of payment of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) benefits under Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) alongwith statutory dues.

Default in payment of wages and other dues by PSUs

832. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Public Sector Undertakings have defaulted payment of wages and other statutory dues for the last few months;

(b) if so, the names of such undertakings and the details of the non-payment of wages and other dues and since when; and

(c) the steps being taken to clear the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) There were 68 Public Sector Undertakings which defaulted in the payment of wages/salaries and other statutory dues, the details of which are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 10] The government has already set up a Group of Ministers to examine and recommend to the Government the manner in which the dues may be cleared.

Selection of Chairman of CCI

833. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of candidates appeared before the Public Enterprises Selection Board for the selection of Chairman of Cement Corporation of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that a CBI suspect has been shortlisted for the Chairmanship of CCI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Eight candidates appeared for interview before the PESB for selection to the post of CMD, CCI. PESB has recommended the name of one candidate. His case is under process. While taking a final decision in the matter, all aspects including Vigilance angle are kept in view.

Public enterprises running in loss

†834. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of public enterprises functioning under the Central Government and the names of those, out of this, which are running in loss;

(b) the total loss incurred by public enterprises which are running in loss from 1995-96 to 1999-2000;

(c) whether there are certain public enterprises which have recovered during the last ten years and have started earning profits;

(d) if so, the names thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.