

approvals taken in respect of GSAT-6/6A, a High Level Team (HLT) was constituted by Cabinet Secretariat on May 31, 2011 under the chairmanship of Shri Pratyush Sinha IAS (Retd) and former CVC. Secretaries of the Departments of Space (Dr. K Radhakrishnan), Telecommunications (Shri R. Chandrashekhar) and Expenditure (Shri Sumit Bose) of Government of India were members of HLT.

The HLT had sought clarifications from all the officers (including concerned former Scientists) who at any point in time had dealt with the files concerning the Antrix-DEVAS agreement and the decisions on the satellites.

The High Level Team had sent detailed letters to these Officials, in July 2011, seeking clarifications for their involvement in various lapses and issues including those pointed out by High Powered Review Committee (HPRC) constituted earlier in Feb 2011 in the context of Antrix-Devas deal. While requesting clarifications within 10 days, it was also stated that (i) in case there is a requirement, the officer may also be requested to appear before the HLT; and (ii) if the officer desires, the HLT would be willing to give opportunity for personal hearing and giving views regarding the agreement. HLT received written replies by August 11, 2011. Chairman of the HLT provided opportunity for personal hearing as requested by former Chairman of ISRO. Further, the former Chairman of ISRO followed it up with a letter to Chairman HLT, on August 10, 2011.

The HLT Report was submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat on September 2, 2011. The Conclusions and Recommendations of HLT (Chapter 6 of the Report) are available in the Web sites of DoS (www.dos.gov.in) and ISRO (www.isro.gov.in).

Based on the findings of the High Level Team, the former ISRO Chairman and three other former scientists (who were already superannuated from service) of Department of Space have been excluded from re-employment, committee roles or any other important role under the Government and have been divested of any current assignment / consultancy with the Government.

As elaborated above, the former scientists concerned of ISRO have been given due and adequate chance to explain their position by the High Level Team before taking action.

Executive leaving company

4618. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although Odisha Mineral Development Company (OMDC) All Mines Bisra Lime Stone and Dolomite mines have become the

subsidiaries of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) and these Institutions have been designated as 'B' Categories and since the scale allowances, and other benefits of executives, employees and workers have not been revised, all top executives are leaving the company and nobody is willing to join in any executives or top management post; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Orissa Minerals Development Company Limited (OMDC) and Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited (BSLC) are the subsidiaries of Eastern Investments Limited, which is a subsidiary of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL). The OMDC and BSLC have been initially categorized by the Department of Public Enterprises as Schedule 'B' and 'C' Public Sector Undertakings respectively w.e.f. 19.03.2010. Sixteen (16) executives have left the Company since 2009 on the ground of personal reasons, unavoidable circumstances, domestic reasons and sickness, but no executive left the Company on the ground of non-revision of pay scales.

Exports of Minerals by NMDC

†4619. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for granting the permission of export of the precious and high-quality minerals from the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) mines situated at Baladila to the Japanese/Korean steel mills despite the fact that iron ore is not available even to cater to the needs of the domestic steel industries of the country, and on whose direction the permission was granted;

(b) whether the NMDC itself and the Ministry of Steel had opposed this export in view of the domestic requirements; and

(c) if so, the reasons for overlooking their objections, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (c) The decision to export iron ore, including those from Bailadila mines of NMDC Limited, to the Japanese and Korean steel mills under Long term Agreement has been taken by the Government, after taking into consideration views of various stakeholders including NMDC Limited and Ministry of Steel, as supply of iron ore is a core element in the bilateral ties of India with both these partner countries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.