

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.