

off by the Banks. An interest subsidy of 3% for 3 years is provided for fresh loans extended by banks to the eligible handloom cooperative societies and individual handloom weavers with guarantee cover for such fresh loans.

NABARD has been approved as the implementing agency for this scheme with the target date of 31.12.2012 benefitting 15,000 cooperative societies and 3 lakh handloom weavers after signing the MoU with the State Governments for reforms and after getting the State share of funding. NABARD has commenced the process of special audit of handloom cooperative societies indifferent States.

The Implementation Guidelines regarding the Financial Package have been issued on 28th November, 2011, to the State Governments and Banks. The consultative meeting with State Governments and Banks was held on 29th November, 2011. A National Level Implementation Monitoring and Review Committee (NIMRC) has been constituted which has met three times so far to finalize the operational details. NABARD has prepared a manual for the special audit of handloom weavers cooperative societies. Three advertisements campaigns in print media in regional languages have been carried out. Further, 393 special awareness camps have been conducted so far in different States and 290 more camps have been sanctioned. The matter has been reviewed at the Minister's level on 10.12.2011, 2.1.2012, 22.1.2012 and 26.2.2012.

Letters of the Commitment have been received from 19 States for providing funds towards State share and for signing of MoU for legal and institutional reforms. Similarly, 9 Commercial Banks have issued operational instructions to their branches regarding the implementation of the Financial Package.

Rehabilitation of employees of sick PSUs

*109. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to shut down the sick Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the employees of these sick PSUs will be rehabilitated;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The policy of the Government on revival of sick Public sector enterprises States that while every effort will be made to modernize and restructure sick public sector companies and revive sick industry, chronically loss making companies will either be sold off, or closed, after all the workers get their legitimate dues and compensation.

In pursuance of the above, the Government constituted Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in December, 2004 as an advisory body to advise the Government on strategies, measures and schemes for strengthening, modernizing, reviving, and restructuring of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

The administrative Ministry/Department of the concerned CPSE is responsible for preparing a comprehensive package for revival/rehabilitation, or closure of the loss making CPSE, after due consultations with all the stakeholders, and refer it to BRPSE for its recommendations. Thereafter, approval of the Competent Authority is obtained and the decisions implemented.

(c) to (e) Based on the recommendations of BRPSE, the Government approved revival of 43 CPSEs and closure of 2 CPSEs namely (i) Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited. (BOGL) and (ii) Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd. (BYNL). In case of BYNL, the Government had approved a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to enable the employees desirous of opting for an early separation before closure of the Company. An option was also given simultaneously to the employees of the Company to join any of the subsidiaries before closure of BYNL, provided such subsidiary was willing to take them, or in the alternative, be offered VRS.

In case of BOGL, the Government approved opening of a Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) for all employees and made budgetary provision to settle all employees related dues including VSS benefits, salary/wages and statutory dues.

A Scheme of Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment (CRR) is being implemented since 2001-02 by Department of Public Enterprises to provide opportunities of redeployment through counseling and retraining to separated employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) rendered surplus as a result of modernization, technology upgradation and manpower restructuring in CPSEs. The objective is to equip them with skill/expertise enabling them to be deployed in self-employment activities mainly.

From 2001-02 to 2010-11, around 1.63 lakh VRS optees have availed the benefit of the scheme. During 2011-12, with a plan fund of Rs. 8.90 crore, the target is to cover 9000 VRS optees. During 2012-13, Rs. 9.90 crore is allocated for implementation of the Scheme.

Hitch in granting MFN status by Pakistan

*110. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited Pakistan in February, 2012 with a large delegation of Indian businessmen;