

Proposal to sell stake in Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

1347. SHRI D. RAJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to sell 10.82 per cent stake in Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL); and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of its shareholding of 85.82%, the Government of India has decided to sell 10.82% of paid up equity in Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) through 'Offer for Sale of Shares through Stock Exchange Mechanism' as per SEBI Rules and Regulations.

Closing of various mines

1348. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bolani Mines of Durgapur Steel Plant, Thakurani Mines of Odisha Mineral Development Company (OMDC), Bisra Lime Stone and Dolomite quarry are closed as there is no forest and environment clearance and thousands of tribal workers are unemployed; and
- (b) the steps taken by SAIL to open all these mines of Odisha at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Bolani Iron Ore Mine of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Bisra Stone Lime Company Ltd. (BSLC) under Bird Group of Companies are operational. However, Thakurani Mines of Orissa Minerals Development Company Ltd. (OMDC) is not operational for want of environment and forest clearance. The regular workers on the rolls of OMDC are retained and paid wages. Necessary action has already been initiated for obtaining forest and environment clearance in respect of Thakurani Mines of OMDC.

Pending proposal of tourism

1349. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: