

welfare of persons with disabilities. Out of these, three Schemes, namely, (i) Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped; and (ii) Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) and Scheme of Regional Rehabilitation Centres for Persons with spinal injury are implemented as Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Another Scheme, National programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) has been approved recently as a State Sector Scheme. Details of grant-in-aid given to the State Governments under these three Schemes are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 191, Annexure No. 21] Under the IEDC grant-in-aid is given to the NGOs also. The Scheme of RRC has been approved this year. Apart from the above, this Ministry funds NGOs and Central Institutions to provide rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities.

(c) and (d) The grant-in-aid under the Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped is generally given as reimbursement of expenditure incurred by the State Governments/UT Administrations. In case of the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD), the grant-in-aid was given "only last year, 1999-2000 for the first time. Grant-in-aid released has been fully utilized under the Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Persons (IEDC)

(e) The number of beneficiaries, State-wise, in case of Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped and Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC), are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 191, Annexure No. 21] As regards the NPRPD it is too early to indicate the number of beneficiaries at this stage since implementation has started this year.

Disinvestment of IA and AI

*220. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to go in for open bidding process in disinvestment;

(b) if so, whether Government have also taken a decision to adopt the open bidding process for the sale of their shares in all shortlisted PSUs;

(c) if so, what is the latest position on issue of disinvestment of Indian Airlines and Air India;

(d) to what extent process of disinvestment has taken place; and

(e) by when the disinvestment process of IA and AI is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) In order to maintain transparency in the disinvestment process for strategic sale, the general procedure being followed is as under:

- Proposals for Disinvestment in any PSU based on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission or in accordance with the declared Disinvestment Policy of the Government, are placed for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment (CCD).
- After CCD clears the Disinvestment Proposal, selection of the Advisor is done through Competitive Bidding Process.
- The Advisor assists the Government in preparation and issue of advertisement in leading newspapers inviting the Expression of Interest (EOI) offers from interested parties.
- After receipt of the EOIs, Prospective Bidders are short listed based on objective screening in the light of announced criteria/ requirements.
- The Advisors, after due diligence of the PSU, prepare the Information memorandum in consultation with the concern PSU. This is given to the short listed prospective Bidders who have entered into a Confidentiality Agreement.
- The draft Share Purchase Agreement and the Shareholder Agreement are also prepared by the Advisors with the help of the Legal Advisors.
- The Prospective Bidders undertake due diligence of the PSU and hold discussions with the Advisors/the Government/the Representatives of the PSU for any clarifications.

- Concurrently the task of valuation of the PSU is undertaken in accordance with the standard national and international practices.
- Based on the reactions received from the Prospective Bidders, the Share Purchase Agreement and Shareholders Agreement are prepared. After getting them vetted by the Ministry of Law, they are approved by the Government. Thereafter, they are sent to the Prospective Bidders for inviting the final binding bids (Technical and Financial).
- After examination, analysis and evaluation, the recommendations of the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) are placed before the CCD for final decision regarding selection of the Strategic Partner, signing of the Share Purchase Agreement and Shareholders Agreement, and other ancillary issues.
- In the disinvestment process mentioned above, Department of Disinvestment is assisted at each stage by an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) comprising officers from the Ministry of Finance, Department of Public Enterprises, the Administrative Ministry/Department controlling the PSU, apart from the officers of the Department of Disinvestment and the Advisors.
- After the transaction is completed all papers and documents relating to it shall be turned over to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India; the CAG shall prepare an evaluation for sending to Parliament and releasing to the public.

As regards the status of disinvestment process in Indian Airlines and Air India, the position is as under:

- Advertisements in leading newspapers issued on 2.10.2000 inviting offers for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Air India and on 29.9.2000 for Indian Airlines.
- Advisors for the transactions have received Expression of Interest offers from certain prospective partners.
- The finalization of documents forming part of the Bid Pack, such as Information Memorandum, Initial Draft Share Purchase and Shareholders Agreements etc., is underway.
- No final time frame for completing the transaction can be given at this stage as the same would depend on various factors like time

taken for the dilligence by the prospective bidders,
finatization of agreements etc.

Guidelines on Fuel Import

1441. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently framed the guidelines on fuel import under duty exemption scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revised scheme would be disadvantageous to the exporters; and

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to help the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Government has decided to allow fuel under Standard Input Output Norms (SION) for Advance Licensing Scheme, wherein fuel constitutes more than 15% of the total cost of manufacturing.

(c) and (d) Since fuel has hitherto not normally been allowed under SION, it is expected that allowing fuel under the Norms shall be advantageous to the manufacturer wherein fuel constitutes a significant part of production cost by reducing the cost of production itself. This would make Indian products more competitive in the international market.

Inevitability of Export for Auto Industry

1442. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Auto industry in the country had been acquainted of the inevitability of export while granting approval for production;

(b) what is the percentage of total production which had been set as export obligation for industry;

(c) whether exports have been made in conformity with the fixed import obligations during the remaining period of the current year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and to what extent exports have been

made so far?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.