

employees of Environment Management Department (EMD) & Fire brigade involved in the job got trapped in the fire. As a result, 9 persons died on spot and 5 persons succumbed to their injury in course of treatment at Jawahar Lal Nehru (JLN) Hospital, Bhilai.

(c) and (d) An inquiry committee was constituted by SAIL comprising of experts from different plants of SAIL to ascertain reasons of the incident, suggest appropriate measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents and fix responsibility. Similarly a High Level Committee was constituted by Ministry of Steel to conduct independent inquiry with the causes of the incidence. The reports of both the committees have been submitted.

(e) Both SAIL and RINL have taken a number of measures to avoid occurrence of accidents. These measures, *inter-alia*, include adherence to maintenance schedule, thrust on systematic approach to safety management, strict adherence to safety procedures, regular inspection, mandatory training and special training on safety awareness, conduct of safety audit, enforcing use of personal protection equipment and proper implementation of emergency plan prepared as per the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 etc. Further, based upon accident analysis, area specific safety workshop involving all major steel producers have been organised in recent past to facilitate learning from good practices.

Relaxation of affordability clause for steel PSUs

311. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL was in profit from 2003-04 to 2014-15, but loss during 2015-16 deprived it from Pay revision for next ten years w.e.f. 01.01.17 due to limitations in affordability clause of DPE OM dated 3rd August, 2017;

(b) if so, whether Ministry has requested DPE to relax affordability clause for steel PSUs, to the extent of considering best three of previous five years, because loss is due to cyclic nature of steel industry, affected by policies of global players;

(c) whether, DPE has allowed Ministry to seek cabinet approval for affordability clause relaxation; and

(d) whether Ministry has initiated actions for cabinet approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was in profit from 2003-04 till

2014-15 and incurred loss during 2015-16. As per Clause 3 of the DPE guidelines dated 3.8.2017, for implementation of revised pay package for Board level executives, below Board level executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors, the additional financial impact in the year of implementing should not be more than 20% of the average Profit Before Tax (PBT) of the last three financial years preceding the year of implementation. DPE guidelines further provides that no fitment or any other benefit of pay revision will be implemented in the CPSEs where the additional financial impact of the revised pay package is more than 40% of the average PBT of last 3 financial years. The average PBT of the last three financial years i.e. financial years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 was negative in case of SAIL. Accordingly, salary revision in case of Executives of SAIL could not be implemented.

(b) and (c) In response to request from Ministry of Steel, DPE have clarified that no proposal for modification in 'affordability' criteria is under consideration. DPE has issued guidelines for 2017 pay revision which, *inter-alia*, includes an affordability clause, based on the recommendations of Committee of Secretaries (CoS) on the report of 3rd Pay Revision Committee (PRC).

(d) No such proposal has been initiated.

Revival of RINL

312. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted a committee for the revival of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its composition and the objectives thereof and status of the implementation of revival plan;

(c) whether the plant is suffering from loss or has been earning profit and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase operational efficiency and profitability of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) A committee comprising of members from Ministry of Steel, PSUs and