

25/02/2003 in CWJC No. 4445 of 2000. The other complaint was about wrongful denial of seniority to two employees for which SAIL has taken action.

(b) In SAIL, the Procedure for fixing the seniority for employees of Plant/Unit is as follows:

- For Non-Executive employees, seniority is reckoned on the basis of his / her entry into the grade/cluster, in his/her line of promotion.
- For Executive employees, seniority is determined by the date of entry into a scale of pay/ grade.

(c) For below Board level officers/employees, SAIL is competent to decide personnel matters.

Observation of fraud by EPFO

2713. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has observed some fraud towards its subscribers/account holders spread through out the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect the employee's fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) A few fraudulent cases have been reported in Regional Offices of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) located at Kadapa (Andhra Pradesh), Bommasandra (Karnataka), Ranchi, Delhi, Vatva (Gujarat), Faridabad, Bandra, Salem, Trichy and Noida.

(c) The following steps have been taken by EPFO to protect the Fund:—

- (i) In cases of frauds involving an amount of ₹25 lakh and above, the matter is mandatorily referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). In other cases, the field offices are required to lodge complaints with the local police.

- (ii) Fraud Risk Management Committees, Concurrent Audit Cell have been constituted to review/audit and flag all cases of frauds and take appropriate action in each case.
- (iii) Aadhaar based facility to submit claims online has been provided to the members and Electronic payments have been made compulsory.

Suspension of operations by NMDC

2714. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) has suspended operations in Donimalai over imposition of 80 per cent premium on sales from the mine of Karnataka;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NMDC participated in previous auctions for mines in Karnataka offering 95 per cent and 105 per cent as premium; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) NMDC had approached the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka against the decision of the Government to impose a premium of 80% while renewing the lease of Donimalai Mine. The Hon'ble High Court had set aside the decision of the Government of Karnataka to impose premium. Meanwhile, Government of Karnataka unilaterally cancelled the lease renewed in favour of NMDC and also put the mine for auction. NMDC has filed a Revision Petition under Section 30 of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, before the Revisionary Authority in the Ministry of Mines against the order of Government of Karnataka. The revisionary authority has stayed the order of the Government of Karnataka in his quasi judicial capacity. Meanwhile Ministry of Mines, Government of India has amended the Minerals (Mining by Government Company Rules), 2015 and substituted 'may' for reasons to be recorded in Rule 3 in sub-rule (2) and rule 4, in sub-rule (3) with 'shall' for reasons to be recorded vide Gazette Notification No. GSR 695(E) on dated 27.9.2019 which will ensure seamless renewal of leases for Government PSEs.