

Redesigning of CRR scheme

*138. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to redesign the CRR Scheme for VRS optees;
- (b) if so, the reasons for such redesigning of the scheme;
- (c) whether Government would consider to expand the coverage of scheme to include at least one family member of VRS optees;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) what other steps are being taken to expand the coverage of scheme; and
- (f) by when the redesigned scheme would be launched?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Scheme of Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment (CRR) for separated employees of CPSEs has been dropped in the Eleventh Five Year Plan by Planning Commission under zero based budgeting exercise. Planning Commission has advised that Note for Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) on the reformulated scheme should be prepared after taking into account the recommendations of V. V. Giri, National Labour Institute, who evaluated the scheme in the year 2004, and coverage of dependents of VRS optees in the scheme.

(c) to (e) As advised by the Planning Commission, this Department has prepared a Note for consideration of EFC.

(f) The CRR scheme would be implemented after consideration and approval by EFC.

Criteria for selection of Bank Directors

*139. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the total number of Non-Executive Bank Directors in Nationalized Banks;
- (b) what is the criterion/procedure for selecting these Directors; and
- (c) whether Government stipulates any minimum education for the selection of these Directors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Board of Directors of Nationalized Banks is constituted as per the provisions of Section 9(3) of 'The Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/80' which, *inter alia*, provide for nomination of three to six part time non official Directors and one Non-official Director under Chartered Accountant category. In Nationalized Banks with public shareholding, between one to three shareholder

directors are to be elected by Shareholders depending on the percentage of shares held by the public - one up to 16 per cent, two between 16 and 32 per cent and three beyond 32 per cent of public shareholding. The total number of Non Official Directors nominated by Government and elected by Shareholders taken together shall not exceed six. Presently, Government have appointed 39 part time Non Official Directors' and 16 Directors (under Chartered Accountant category) on the Boards of the Nationalised Banks.

(b) and (c) The criteria/procedure to be adopted for nomination of part time Non Official Directors on the Boards of Nationalized Banks is given in the Statement (*See* below). The criteria, *inter alia*, provides that a person to be considered for appointment as part time non official director should at least be a 'Graduate'. However, this educational qualification may be relaxed with the approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet in case of farmers, depositors and artisans.

Statement

Guidelines for selection of part-time Non-Official Director

The following criteria may be adopted for nomination of part-time Non-Official Directors (NOD) on the Boards of Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions etc.

(I) GENERAL

1. Nominations will be made keeping in view the provisions of the relevant Acts/Rules.
2. The suitability of nominees may be assessed in terms of formal qualification and expertise, track record, integrity etc. For assessing integrity and suitability, information on criminal records, financial position, civil, actions undertaken to pursue personal, debts, refusal of admission to or expulsion from professional bodies, sanctions applied by regulators and similar bodies and previous questionable business practices etc. will be relied upon.
3. Persons with special academic training or practical experience in the fields of agriculture, rural economy, banking, cooperation, economics, business management, human resources, finance, law, marketing, industry and IT will ordinarily be considered.
4. As far as possible representation may also be given to women and the persons belonging to SC/ST community.

(II) EDUCATION

1. An NOD should at least be a graduate. Educational qualifications may be relaxed with the approval of ACC in case of farmers, depositors and artisans.

(III) AGE

1. The age of the Director, on the, date of recommendation by Appointments Board, *should not be less than 40 years and preferably*

below 60 years. The upper age limit may be relaxed in case of outstanding experts, eminent persons.

(IV) WORK EXPERIENCE

1. Professionals/academicians *should ordinarily have 10 years of work experience* in the particular field.

(V) DISQUALIFICATION

1. A director already on a Bank/FI, under any category, may not be considered for nomination as NOD on any other Bank/FI.
2. Persons connected with hire purchase, financing, investment, leasing and other para-banking activities, MPs, MLAs, MLCs and Stock Brokers will not be appointed as non-official directors on the boards of Banks/ FIs.
3. No person may be re-nominated as a NOD on the Board of a Bank/ FI on "which he/she has served as Director in the past under any category for two terms or six years whichever is longer.
4. An NOD would not be considered for nomination as a Director on the Board of a Bank/FI if such Director has already been a NOD/shareholder-Director on the board of any other Bank/FI for six years, whether continuously or intermittently.

(VI) PROFESSIONAL RESTRICTION

1. NOD will not accept/will not be allotted any work of the Bank/FI for two years after demitting office as Director of that Bank/FI.
2. During his term as NOD on any Bank, such Director will not undertake any professional work (statutory audit, concurrent audit, legal retainership or empanelment as a lawyer etc.) in any other Public Sector Bank.
3. If a person having professional relationship with bank, including cooperative bank, is selected for being nominated on the board of any bank, he will have to sever his connection with the bank before such appointment.
4. Professionals shall not be nominated on the Board of a PSB with which they have had a business relationship during the last 3 years before such nomination.

(VII) REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

Effort should be made to ensure representation of all the six zones of the country — North, South, East, West, Central and North-East — on the Boards of Public Sector Banks taken together.

Exploration of new oil and gas reserves

†* 140. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ONGC has found some new oil and gas reserves within the country and in coastal regions of the country in May, 2007;
- (b) if so, the names of States where these oil and gas reserves have been found; and
- (c) by when these oil and gas reserves could be utilized commercially?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): Yes, Sir. During the month of May, 2007, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has made six new oil and gas discoveries, *viz.*, two each in Assam and Gujarat and one each in Tripura and Andhra Pradesh.

Out of these, two oil and gas discoveries in the states of Assam have been put on production as the required surface facilities/infrastructure were available near the discovery wells. Remaining four discoveries are at various stages of delineation/appraisal.

The time taken for development of oil & gas discoveries is normally about 3 to 8 years depending upon the location of discovery, availability of infrastructure and markets in and around the discovery area.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Direct flight from far East countries to Delhi and Gaya**

899. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that tourists and pilgrims from the far East countries and specially China are interested in visiting India, but there are hardly any air connections;
- (b) if so, whether there is any plan to connect Beijing, Shanghai, Taipeh and Tokyo directly to Delhi and to Gaya to facilitate the tourists and pilgrims; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) For tourists and pilgrims interested in visiting India from China, there is direct connectivity by air from Beijing and Shanghai to Delhi.

(b) and (c) Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei and Tokyo are already connected by air to Delhi. However there is no direct connectivity from these points to Gaya. The designated airlines of China and Japan have the facility under the existing arrangements with India to choose Gaya as a point of call for commencement of air services as per their commercial judgement. Tourists and pilgrims can however utilize

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.