

[17 December, 2003] RAJYA SABHA

accordingly can be used for industrial usage depending on its composition, heat value and availability of other infrastructure for use of the gas.

Revival of Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

1545. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the present revival status of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL);
- (b) whether there is any time-bound action plan to bring ECL out of BIFR; and
- (c) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) to (c) Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) *vide* order No. 501/2000 dated 27th February, 2001 declared the company as a Sick company under Section 3(1)(o) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, (SICA), 1985 and appointed State Bank of India as Operating Agency under Section 17(3) of the SICA to formulate Rehabilitation Scheme under Section 18 of SICA. The consultant appointed by the Operating agency after holding intensive discussion at various level prepared a Rehabilitation Scheme for ECL during June, 2002.

Though the Scheme was discussed at various levels, no consensus on the Rehabilitation Scheme could be reached. However, comments were received from Government of India, Government of West Bengal and Coal India Limited on various reliefs and concessions sought from them. During the last BIFR hearing held on 7th July, 2003, BIFR directed as under:

- (i) Government of India would decide on the quantum of relief and concessions and induction of funds for the revival of the Company and inform the Operating agency within a period of 90 days, but not later than 7.10.2003.
- (ii) The Company would discuss with the workers' unions the issue of outsourcing and closure of the mines and submit a fully tied up rehabilitation proposal to the Operating Agency within the same 90 days. This is last chance being given to the company.

- (iii) State Bank of India (Operating Agency) would examine the proposal submitted by the Company in further 4 weeks and submit their status report along with the minutes of the joint meeting.
- (iv) If no viable scheme emerges at the end of the period mentioned above, the Board would be left with no alternative but to issue order for winding up of the company without holding any further hearing.

Accordingly, a meeting with all the stakeholders was held by ECL on 23rd August, 2003 to discuss and prepare a Modified Rehabilitation Scheme acceptable to all concerned. Most of the Trade Unions (except CITU, AITUC and HMS) agreed to outsourcing for a temporary period but all the Trade Unions wanted to have mine to mine discussions with management to explore the possibility whether any one of the mines identified for suspension of activities could be worked economically with a marginal investment. Another meeting with the stakeholders was held on 9th September, 2003 but no consensus could be reached. Based on the response received from different stakeholders on the original Scheme and the discussion held, ECL have prepared a revised Draft Rehabilitation Scheme. The revised Draft Rehabilitation Scheme envisages a positive net worth for the company by 2006-07 upon confirmation of the reliefs sought from different stakeholders. This Revised Draft Rehabilitation Scheme can be submitted by ECL to the OA upon such confirmation. Government has sought extension of time limit through the Operating Agency.

Demand and production of coal

1546. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the demand of coal in the country is fully met by the domestic production;
- (b) the details regarding the mine-wise production and the country's annual demand of coal; and
- (c) the details of import of coal for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) No, Sir.