

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:452
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
PRIVATISATION OF ECL
AJAY CHAKRABORTY;PRABODH PANDA

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to privatise Eastern Coal Fields Limited (ECL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the manpower in a big number over next five years;
- (d) if so, whether the Government of West Bengal has requested to consider for reduction of cess; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) &(b) : No, Sir.

(c) : It is proposed to reduce manpower in ECL by 22,800 during the 10th Plan period, consistent with the requirements to turn around the company, which is presently loss making.

(d)to(e) : In the meeting held on 5th November, 2001 between the Union Minister of Coal & Mines and the Chief Minister, West Bengal, the State Government was requested to bring the rates of cess levied by West Bengal to such an extent that the rates of royalty and cess together, payable to the Government of West Bengal, is at par with the rate of royalty payable in the other coal producing States.