Apex court asks Centre to discuss ticket price refund issue with airlines

SAIL's 40 employees, including chairman, test Covid positive

SURYA SARATHI RAY<br>Dehli, June 12

AROUND 40 EMPLOYEES of Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and its subsidiaries tested Covid positive after a clutch of executive directors who were in the company's head office at Lodhi Road in New Delhi, have tested Covid-19 positive. “There were three serious cases who were hospitalised, all others are asymptomatic and are under medical observation,” a SAIL official said on condition of anonymity.

The officials have requested including chairman and executive directors of the company, working at the head office, to be tested.

The state-run steelmaker has previously informed that it had tested 19 employees from June 1 only. Sources said, following the spate of the disease, very few employees are reporting to work. There are 40 employees not tested with the SAIL arm, the officials have requested them to report to work for the safety of other employees.

In June 1 statement, the PSUs board had said that they have been tested 60 to 70 employees from June 1. It said that the infected employees were immediately asked to home quarantine themselves.

Though the company had engaged a government-appointed agency to test employees working at the head office, the tests started from June 3, the number of infected persons only kept on increasing. Now, SAIL's officials (personnel) and SAIL's senior directors are also found testing positive. Their movement to floors other than the 6th floor is being restricted and the places are also being sanitised. The health officials have also tied-up with the concerned health department for testing of employees who require the same.

FSIs disburse 14.69-cr loan to MSMEs under emergency scheme

Petrol hiked by 57 paise per litre, diesel by 59 paise

NEW DELHI, June 12

PETROL ORDER Price was hiked by 57 paise per litre and the price of diesel by 59 paise per litre from midnight. Petrol now costs Rs 91.70 per litre in Delhi, and diesel is priced at Rs 82.32 per litre.

The hike was the first increase in 26 days, the sixth this fiscal year. It comes a day after the Union cabinet approved the fourth phase of stimulus package to boost consumer demand.

The cabinet also approved the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana to save lives and livelihoods, which is expected to provide relief to about 320 mn people.

The Finance Ministry said the increase in fuel prices on Wednesday was necessitated to absorb the recent fall in international crude prices. The price of Brent, the benchmark international oil price, dropped to Rs 74.05 per barrel on Friday.

The price of petrol was cut by 46.9 paise per litre and of diesel by 38.9 paise per litre in April, but the cuts were reversed after prices reached record levels.

Stressed asset resolution scheme

The Finance Ministry had earlier announced the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana, which includes a loan disbursement programme for MSMEs under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme.

The credit guarantee scheme has been created by the Ministry of Finance, aiming to boost the MSME sector which has been hit by the ongoing pandemic.

Under the scheme, banks and financial institutions would extend loans to eligible MSMEs up to Rs 25 crore, with an approval from the Central government.

The scheme is expected to benefit about 90 mn MSMEs and is expected to disburse Rs 20,000 crore of loans.

The scheme has been launched to provide financial support to MSMEs, which have been hit by the ongoing pandemic and are facing liquidity constraints.

The scheme is expected to provide relief to the MSME sector, which is a major contributor to the country's economy and employment generation.