

SCI, BPCL among CPSEs to be privatised, three IPOs lined up

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL move ahead with strategic sale of Shipping Corporation, BEML and BPCL in the next financial year, besides initial public offering of three public sector companies, including ECGC, a top government official said.

The FY23 Budget has projected a disinvestment target of ₹65,000 crore for next financial year. This is significantly lower than the estimated ₹1.75 lakh crore budgeted for FY22. In the revised estimates, the target for FY22 has been cut to ₹78,000 crore.

Department of investment and public asset management



(Dipam) secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the next year's target would be met by a mix of minority stake sale in CPSEs, listing of CPSEs and strategic sale. "We have got multiple financial bids for Pawan Hans, we have to go further on that process. Shipping Corp, BEML and BPCL are in financial bids stage. HLL Lifecare and PDIL are in EoI stage. Besides, next fiscal we will go for listing of

ECGC, WAPCOS and National Seeds Corporation and some minority stake sale, but there we might have less bandwidth," Pandey told PTI.

Asked if the Pawan Hans sale would conclude by March-end, he said "we have to see if we can manage. We are yet to open the bids and then some time would be required for getting approvals".

Pandey said the process of demerger of core and non-core assets of Shipping Corporation and BEML are going on, post which financial bids would be invited for their strategic sale. Asked where BPCL privatisation process stands, he said "We are stuck with the bidders and are trying to fast-track it, so that

they are ready for bidding."

The government is selling 52.98% in BPCL, 63.75% in Shipping Corp, 26% in BEML and 51% in Pawan Hans. State-owned ONGC, too, is selling its 49% in the company.

Elaborating on disinvestment target and road ahead, Pandey said strategic sale is an ongoing process and takes about 1-1.5 years for the process to come to conclusion. "That is the reason for rationalising the target, because there are no easy pickings. We only sell the equity value, that's the government receipt as debt goes (to buyers) along with the company. When we say disinvestment target it is an accounting term, it is not real term". — PTI