

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) Presently, Government to examining the proposal of up-gradation of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) from Miniratna Category (I) to Navaratna status and as such any action on this proposal can be proposed only after this examination is over.

Market Orientation of Steel Prices

2638. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some inputs into steel industry like coal, power, railway, freight, prices of diesel and petrol and wages of workers, are Administratively controlled by Government departments, with the result that steel prices are currently market oriented and go up or down, depend ng upon market forces;

(b) if so, whether Government have a proposal to do away this big anomaly, so that Indian steel companies can compete with global companies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The cost of raw materials, power, freight and fuel are determined by the pricing policies of the concerned Departments/agencies. These pricing policies are themselves being influenced, in an increasing measures, by the market forces. The wage structure in steel industry is determined by the wage review mechanism of the public sector/private sector steel units. Besides these factors, cost of production, and consequently the pricing of steel products, are also determined by factors such as scale of production, technology adopted, locational advantages, cost of capital *etc.* Thus prices of various steel items are decided, in the ultimate analysis, by the interplay of various market forces.

(b) and (c) There is no anomaly in regard to pricing of steel products. After decontrol of steel items in 1991 -92 as part of the process of economic

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liberalisation, Government does not fix prices for these items. Prices of various steel items are determined by respective steel producers based on the prevailing market conditions and other related factors.

Steel production in PSUs

2639. SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI J. CHIT-HARANJAN:.

Will the Minister of ST.EEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel production in public sector steel plants declined considerably during 2001-2002, as compared to 2000-2001; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the plant-wise details of production of steel in the public sector, during 2000-2001 and 2001 -2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Except in a few isolated cases, there has been an overall increased in the production of crude steel by the public sector steel plants in 2001 -02 as compared to 2000-01.

(b) The plant-wise production of crude steel in the public sector during 2000-2001 and 2001 -2002 is as below:—

Public Sector Steel Plant	Production ('000 tonnes)	
	2000-01	2001-02*
SAIL:	3836	3967
BSP		
DSP	1593	1668
RSP	1242	1334
BSL	3635	3498
IISCO	330	346
ASP	114	95
VISL	117	115
RINL	2821	2990
TOTAL:	13688	14013

*Provisional