

(b) As per the information available with the Government, the annual rates of growth in production and demand for finished carbon steel in last 4 years and the current year are as indicated below:

	(% growth)				
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Apr, 07- Feb, 08
Production	9.0	7.0	7.4	13.1	5.0
Demand	7.9	10.3	13.9	13.1	11.4

SOURCE: JPC

In the first 10 months of the last fiscal year (April, 07 — February, 08), domestic demand for carbon steel has grown by 11.4% compared to a growth of 5.0% in domestic production.

(c) and (d) An Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) to monitor and coordinate issues concerning major steel investments in the country. The IMG consists of Secretaries of Ministries/Departments of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Mines, Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Environment & Forest, as well as the Chief Secretaries of concerned State Governments. The IMG is continuously monitoring and pursuing the various issues concerning investments in the steel sector in the country.

Optimum utilization of low grade ores to meet growing demand

3543. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether even as India set a target of achieving production capacity of 110 MT of steel by 2020, scientists have observed that the country must made optimum utilization of low grade ores to meet the growing demand;

(b) if so, whether the required quantity of iron is projected at 190 MT;

(c) whether the demand may raise by more than 200 MT per year to meet the internal requirements and export; and

(d) if so, the steps Government is considering in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) to (d) National Steel Policy-2005 envisaged a steel production capacity of 110 million tonnes in the country to be achievable by the year 2019-20. The Policy further envisaged that 190 million tonnes of iron ore would be required to support steel production of 110 million tonne by 2019-20 and exports of iron ore would be around 100 million tonne by 2019-20. As per the Policy, investments are to be encouraged for creation of additional Modern Mining and Beneficiation capacity to gainfully utilize low grade ores and for setting up of pelletization facilities for adding value to iron ore fines.

However, taking into account the current trend in growth of steel demand and the status of various steel investment projects, it is estimated that the steel production capacity in the country is likely to be 124 million tonnes by the year 2011-12. Furthermore, as per the latest available information, 194 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) have been signed by

various private sector steel investors with the State Governments intending to set up nearly 243 million tonnes of additional steel capacity in the country. Based on this projection and the plan set out by public sector steel units, it is estimated that country's steel production capacity can be 293 million tonnes by 2019-20. However, this estimation will depend upon sustenance of current steel demand as well as successful implementation of all intended investment projects.

The Government has approved National Mineral Policy, 2008 and along with it has also given in-principle approval to the High Level Committee's (Hoda Committee) recommendations on the basis of consultations with State Governments, Inter-Ministerial consultations and recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GOM). The NMP, 2008 aims at developing the country's mining sector to its full potential so as to put the nation's mineral resources to best use and thereby maximise sectoral contribution to the Gross Domestic Product.

12.00 Noon

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, (PROF. P.J. KURIEN), in the Chair.]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report (2007-08) and Accounts (2006-07) of ICAR, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (a) Annual Report of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, for year 2006-2007, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (b) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8667/08]

Outcome Budget (2008-09) of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, on behalf of Shri Mahavir Prasad, I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Outcome Budget for the year 2008-09 of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8555/08]

Report and Accounts (2006-07) of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8608/08]