

**Joint Plan Committee Fund**

†3533. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Joint Plan Committee Fund has been established to provide subsidy to steel producers of the country;

(b) if so, the total corpus deposited in the fund during March, 2007;

(c) the sources of funding of the said fund and the average annual amount deposited in the said fund during last four years; and

(d) the purpose for which this subsidy is provided to steel produces from the said corpus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):  
(a) There is no Joint Plan Committee (JPC) fund to provide subsidy to steel producers of the country. However, JPC acts as a secretariat of the Steel Development Fund (SDF) which provides financial assistance to the steel industry from the SDF corpus for taking up projects like technology upgradation, market development projects, Global Environment Facility of UNDP projects for environment and pollution control in the iron and steel sector, activities related to research and development and transport subsidy to the Small Scale Industries Corporations engaged in the distribution of steel.

(b) The liquid fund balance of the SDF as on 31st March, 2007 is Rs. 84.48 crores.

(c) The present source of funding of the SDF are the adhoc payments against due interests on the loans availed by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Tata Steel Limited (TSL) from the said fund. The amount received in the Fund from SAIL and TSL during the last four years are as under:—

Year	Amount in Rs. crores
2004-05	38.05
2005-06	33.50
2006-07	48.45
2007-08	40.00

(d) As stated in answer to part (a).

**Reduction in the Consumer Sale Price**

†3534. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the major steel producers of the country have reduced the consumer sale price of various products in the first week of April, 2008 at the request of the Government;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.