

**Modernization of NMDC**

3537. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is proposed to be modernized to increase its production and take up fresh exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the PSU also proposes to set up pellet plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NMDC is planning to increase its production from the present level of 29.78 million tonnes of iron ore in 2007-08 to 50.0 million tonnes by 2014-15. The production is proposed to be increased from its existing mines by improving technology and by deploying higher capacity mining & beneficiation machinery/equipment and also by developing new state of the art mines. NMDC is taking up exploration in its existing iron ore mines to prove additional reserves of iron ore. NMDC is also taking up fresh exploration of iron ore, coal, gold and diamond in areas in which the concerned State Governments have granted Prospecting Licence (PL) to it. Besides, NMDC has set up a Global exploration Centre at Raipur to take care of fresh exploration in-house as well as free exploration for mineral rich States with a view to augment national inventory of iron ore and other minerals.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. NMDC is planning to set up a one million tonne pellet plant utilizing slime in the tailing dam of donimalai, Karnataka.

**Production capacity of private and public sector mills**

3538. SHRI DARA SINGH:

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the present production capacity of private and public sector steel mills in the Country, production-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether all the steel mills in the country in both sectors were able to meet their target within a time-limit or there is shortfall in their production capacity;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps Government has taken in this regard, till-date?

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

(a) Production capacity of private and public sector steel mills in the Country, production-wise and State-wise, is given in the Statement (*See below*). Except Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), all other units are in the private sector.

(b) to (d) Based on provisional data for 2007-08, overall estimates of crude steel production in the country was 53.9 million tonnes, which is 7.6 million tonne less compared to the estimated production of 61.5 million tonnes for the year.

The Government in a de-regulated economy plays the role of a facilitator, providing