

Privatisation of some Public Sector Steel Plants

2567. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA ;

SHRI ANANTA SETHI.

Will the MINISTER OF STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to privatise some public sector steel plants;

(b) whether Rouikela Steel Plant is one of them;

(c) what are the other steel plants proposed to be privatised; and (d) the details of the steps taken to reduce the losses of the public sector steel plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) The financial and business restructuring package of Steel Authority of India Limited, that has been approved by the Government, includes *inter alia* to initiate the process of conversion into joint ventures for the following steel plants ;—

(i) Salem Steel Plant (SSP), Salem

(ii) Alloy Steels Plant (ASP), Durgapur

(iii) Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISL), Bhadravati

(iv) Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd (IISCO)

(d) SAIL is taking the following steps to reduce its losses :

— Intensive cost control measures

— Improvement in techno-economic parameters

— Fresh investment proposals are virtually on hold except on going Scheme & schemes relating to statutory requirement *viz.* safety, environment, etc.

— Thrust on exports

— Implementation of VRS

— Reduction in inventory.

Increase in the production of saleable steel

†2568. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA ;

DR. D. MASTHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state : (a) whether it is a fact that the production of saleable steel in the country is likely to increase during current year in comparison to that of last year.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.