

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 Rourkela 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.