

(c) other measures taken to make it a profit-making company again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL
(SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken to reduce the strength of manpower of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) include, inter-alia, Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), redeployment of manpower from the identified areas and restriction in recruitment.

(c) Government has been in constant dialogue with SAIL and has been periodically reviewing its performance with a view to increase its competitiveness and efficiency. Accordingly, to check losses and improve the financial health of SAIL the Company has drawn up a comprehensive financial and business restructuring plan. The measures outlined in the plan include, inter-alia:

- (i) A reduction in operational costs by reducing input cost, reducing consumption of raw materials and other inputs and by increasing operating efficiencies;
- (ii) Improvement in techno-economic parameters such as fuel and power consumption;
- (iii) Increased recovery for services/facilities;
- (iv) Right sizing manpower through a Voluntary Retirement Schemes (VRS);
- (v) Restructuring of assets;
- (vi) Disposal of idle assets; and
- (vii) Financial restructuring.

Utilization of Special Component Plan Outlay

*118. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of expenditure under the Special Component Plan outlay is not being fully utilised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to improve the working conditions in order to utilise fully the funds earmarked for welfare of SCs/STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Special Component Plan forms a part of State Plan and hence the States/UTs make provision for it in their Annual Plan. The Central Government however, provides an additive to it in the form of Special Centre Assistance.

(c) Expenditure under SCP is periodically reviewed and monitored with States/UTs and they are advised to optimally utilise expenditure under SCP.

Value of Exports and Imports

*119. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of exports, so far, in 1999-2000; product-wise;

(b) the total value of imports during the same period;

(c) the steps being taken to improve the balance of payment position;

(d) whether it is a fact that because of quantitative restrictions exports are getting affected; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to improve the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per the latest DGCI&S data, the value of exports has been provisionally estimated at US \$ 20757 million for the period April—October, 1999-2000.

Major Product-wise data available for April—August, 1999-2000 (provisional estimates) in US \$ million is as follows:

Product Groups	Value
Plantation	333
Agri.& allied products	1389