

(e) the loss sustained by different public sector steel plants during the last three years; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) to (c) Some of the Public Sector Steel Plants including Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) are running in losses. These are as under:—

Sail Plants	Year Since When Losses are incurred
Durgapur Steel Plant	1982-83
Rourkela Steel Plant	1995-96
Alloy Steels Plant	1996-97
Salem Steel Plant	1996-97

*Sail's Subsidiaries*

Indian Iron & Steel Co.	1975-76
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Co.	1991-92

*Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.*

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant	1992-93
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(d) Major reasons for losses in these plants include slow down in demand for steel, greater competition from imports, and enhancement in supplies in domestic market, increase in input prices and higher interest cost etc. which could not be fully neutralised by better technological parameters, cost reduction measures and increase in the prices of steel. Some of these plants are operating with old and obsolete technology.

(e) and (f) The financial losses incurred by these plants during the past three years are as under:—

Unit: Rs. in Crores

Plant	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Durgapur Steel Plant	(-) 174	(-) 236	(0) 509
Rourkela Steel Plant	(-) 57	(-) 316	(-) 374
Alloy Steels Plant	(+) 1	(-) 67	(-) 88
Salem Steel Plant	(+) 4	(-) 138	(-) 120
Indian Iron & Steel	(-) 49	(-) 213	(-) 395
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Co.	(-) 37	(-) 102	(-) 84
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	(-) 204	(-) 246	(-) 177

(+) Profit

(-) Loss

**Closure of Bisra Lime stone Ltd. in Orissa**

109. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Bisra Lime Stone Ltd., Birmitrapur, once the best and biggest in Orissa under Sundargarh District in Orissa is on the verge of closures;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that out of seven thousand workers once, the present strength has come down to only 2500;

(c) if so, whether Government have any proposal to revive the Mines;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to sanction a package to improve the mines; and

(e) if so, the total amount proposed and the time schedule for the release of fund?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited a unit of erstwhile Bird & Company Limited is passing through a severe financial crisis due to shrinkage of demand of its products.

(b) Excess workforce had been identified as the one of the major reasons for the losses of Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited. As such the workforce had to be rationalised in tune with the demand position.

(c) to (e) Government of India is extending financial support to Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited by way of Plan loan, Non Plan loan and Grant-in-Aid. Revival of company is linked with demand position. The present position of Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited is expected to improve with the growth of Steel industry.

**Proposal for Steel Plants in Orissa**

110. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steel plants proposed to be set up in Orissa;