

Induction Furnaces in Punjab

2251. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of induction furnaces installed in different cities/towns of Punjab;

(b) how many furnaces are out of work on account of recession; and

(c) whether Government are working out some scheme to put life in the Steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) There are 89 induction furnaces installed in different cities/towns of Punjab. As per the survey conducted in 1997-98, 17 units are reportedly closed for various reasons, including inter alia sluggish demand conditions on account of slow down in the economy.

(c) As the steel industry has been de-licensed and decontrolled, its fortunes depend entirely on market conditions. Within the industry, fortunes of individual companies depend upon a host of factors including the market strategies adopted to face competition. It is, howev-

er, expected that demand conditions for steel would improve consequent upon measures announced in the Budget for 1998-99 relating to import duties, housing and infrastructure sectors.

Aluminium Plants in Orissa

2252. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some Aluminium or Alumina plants in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of the applications received from the private sector;

(c) the plants in that State where Aluminium and Alumina plants are proposed to be set up in Public Sector; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No, Sir. The Government have no proposal to set up any new Aluminium and Alumina Plants in Orissa in the public sector.

(b) Following companies in the private sector have submitted Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memorandum (IEM) to the Government for setting up aluminium/alumina plants in Orissa:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Location (District)	Item of Manufacture	Annual Capacity (Tonnes)	Date of Acknowledgment of IEM
1.	Orissa Extrusions Ltd.	Balasore	Unwrought Aluminium	7200	26.05.95
2.	Sterlite Industries (I) Ltd.	Kalahandi	Alumina	1000000	13.03.97
3.	Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Sambalpur	Aluminium not alloyed	30000	02.01.95
4.	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Sambalpur	Aluminium	250000	08.08.97
5.	Passary Minerals Ltd.	Sundargarh	Alumina, Calcined	2400	13.02.97
6.	Sterlite Industries (I) Ltd.	Jharsuguda	Aluminium Ingots	250000	13.03.97
7.	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Rayagada	Alumina	500000	08.08.97