

registered a decline in profits. The profits (after tax) losses in SAIL, RINL and TISCO, during the last two years, are given below:—

(Rupees in Crores)

Steel Plants	1996-97	1997-98
SAIL	515.17	132.99 *
RINL	(-) 148.38 **	(-) 304.14 **
TISCO	469.21	322.08

* Provisional ** Unaudited (-) Loss

(c) and (d) The Department of steel periodically reviews the performance of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under its administrative control including the special & current areas of concern etc.

The main reasons identified for decline in profits in SAIL include slow down in demand for steel, greater competition from imports, and enhancement in supplies in domestic market. Further, the profits were adversely affected by increase in input prices primarily of coking coal, petroleum products, power, transportation and higher interest cost which could not be fully neutralised by better techno-economic parameters, cost reduction measures and increase in the prices of steel, etc.

Amendments in MMRD Act, 1957

4400. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether central Government are considering amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, particularly, with a view to delegate more powers to the State Governments; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard and by when the amendments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India with Mining Secretaries of State Governments of Orissa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar,

Gujarat, Assam and Himachal Pradesh, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries and Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines etc. as Members. The terms of reference of the Committee, *inter-alia*, included review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of Prospecting licences/ Mining leases. The Committee was also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/renewal of Prospecting licences/Mining leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government and further necessary action has already been initiated.

Approval for Grant of Minerals Concessions

4401. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that clearance of proposals from the State Governments seeking Central Government's approval for grant of minerals concessions for minerals specified in the parts of A and C of the first Schedule appended to the MMRD Act, usually takes long time; and

(b) the State-wise list showing number of cases pending for Central Government's approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL & MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Mineral Concessions are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder by the State Governments concerned. Proposals for approval of mineral concessions for minerals specified under the First Schedule of the aforesaid Act originate from the respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of by the Central Government as per provisions of law. All efforts are being made to expedite approval of Central Government. Incertain cases the

proposals received from the State Government are incomplete and consequently, in such cases, State Governments are asked to furnish complete information/additional information for disposal.

362 cases were disposed in respect of part C of First Schedule of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act during 1997-98. 128 cases in respect of part C of First Schedule of the Act are pending with Central Government as on 1.6.1998. List showing pending cases for approval of Central Government for minerals listed in part A and part C of First Schedule of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 are appended at Statement I and II respectively. (See below)

Statement—I

State	Pending Cases as on 1.6.1998
Orissa	1
Rajasthan	1
TOTAL	2

Statement—II

State	Pending Cases as on 1.6.1998
Andhra Pradesh	19
Bihar	7
Gujarat	14
Himachal Pradesh	4
Karnataka	16
Madhya Pradesh	14
Orissa	26
Rajasthan	15
Tamil Nadu	11
Uttar Pradesh	2
Total	128

इस्पात परियोजनाओं में पूंजी निवेश

4402. श्री अनन्तराव देवशंकर दवे: क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) निजी क्षेत्र में स्थापित इस्पात परियोजना में पूंजी निवेश का कुल अंशदान कितना है और इसका राष्ट्रीय और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय निवेश का प्रतिशत कितना-कितना है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने निजी उपक्रमों में निवेश के लिये कोई विशिष्ट नीति बनाई है जिसके अन्तर्गत वित्तीय संरचना को परिभाषित किया जा सके;

(ग) क्या निजी क्षेत्र ने अपनी उत्पादकता क्षमता को वित्तीय निवेश के अनुसार कायम रखा है; और

(घ) प्रत्येक उपक्रम में धारिता का वर्तमान प्रतिशत क्या-क्या है?

इस्पात और खान संचालन में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमेश बास): (क) उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार जुलाई, 1991 के बाद अखिल भारतीय वित्तीय संस्थाओं में 19 इस्पात परियोजनाओं को अनुमोदित और स्वीकृत किया है। इनका कुल निवेश लगभग 25,000 करोड़ रुपये है। इनमें से इकाइयां चालू की गई हैं जिनमें कुल निवेश प्रतिशत 6000 करोड़ रुपये हुआ है। इस निवेश में स्वदेशी और विदेशी पार्टियों की प्रतिशतता के अंशदान से संबंधित जानकारी का केन्द्रीय रूप से प्रबोधन नहीं किया जाता।

(ख) विद्यमान नीति के अनुसार 74 प्रतिशत तक विदेशी निवेश करने की निर्बाध रूप से अनुमोदित है। इससे अधिक विदेशी समस्या के लिए सरकार का पूर्व अनुमोदन अपेक्षित होता है।

(ग) यह आशा नहीं है कि निजी क्षेत्र तकनीकी आर्थिक रूप से सुदृढ़ हुए बगैर कोई निवेश करेगा।

(घ) उपरोक्त (क) को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Iron and Steel Produced by PSUs

4402. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of iron, steel and iron alloys produced by Public Sector Undertakings/Private Sector during the year 1997-98 till date as compared to the corresponding last year (1996-97), plant-wise;

(b) the names of the countries to which iron, steel and iron alloys have been exported till date alongwith quantity/rates of each metal during the above mentioned period indicating foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the details of said items imported during 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97 indicating the rates, quantities thereof (country-wise) till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL & MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The quantity of pig iron, steel and alloys/stainless steel produced by Public Sector/Private Sector steel plants during 1997-98 as compared to the corresponding period last year (1996-97) plant-wise was as under:--