

(b) and (c) Ministry of Steel is not associated with Global Market Outlook and has no information to furnish in this regard.

(d) The various steps taken by Government in improving steel availability in the domestic market through retailers and dealers brought about price stability in the market. The retail price of steel in the domestic market was Rs.8,000-Rs. 10,000 lower than the international price, as a result of various positive fiscal and administrative steps taken by the government and continued to be stable between July and September 2008.

Imposition of duty on import of steel

1393. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel industry is undergoing a very rough phase after the melt down in the global economy;

(b) if so, whether the steel producers have sought imposition of 15% duty on import of steel and other measures to survive; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) As a result of global financial crises, the demand for steel has become sluggish. The rate of steel consumption growth has come down to 1.1% during April-November 2008 against 2.4% during April-October 2008 and 4.9% during April-September 2008.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Steel has received a large number of representations from steel industry and industry associations regarding sudden fall in steel demand, sharp decline in international steel prices; and requesting the Government to take appropriate fiscal measures to avoid cheap imports of steel into the country. In order to safeguard the domestic steel industry Government has imposed 5% import duty on steel w.e.f., 18.11.2008. Further, Government has withdrawn the duty on export of all steel items w.e.f., 31.10.2008, restored DEPB benefit on steel export w.e.f., 14.11.2008 put the import of Hot Rolled Coils in the restricted list of imports w.e.f., 21.11.2008 and also reduced Excise Duty on steel items from 14% to 10% w.e.f. 7.12.2008.

Dumping of steel from China at various ports

1394. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel from China is being dumped at various ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to prevent such dumping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Import of Carbon Steel (including seconds and defectives) from China and from countries other than China during April-November 2008 compared to the corresponding period of the previous year and November 2008 compared with November 2007 is given in the tables below: