

Production and job cuts in major steel companies

*168. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major steel companies in the country have cut down production following steep decline in demand for the commodity and the global economic slow down;

(b) if so, the comparative details of production during the months of September, October and November for the years 2007 and 2008 of both the public and private sector companies, plant-wise;

(c) whether certain steel plants have cut jobs also due to this reason; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) There is no decline in the total quantity of steel produced by major steel companies, both in public and private sectors, during the months of September and October, 2008 in comparison with the corresponding period of the previous year. However, these companies have reported reduction in steel production during the month of November, 2008 in comparison to their production in the previous month as well as the corresponding month of the previous year, due to sluggish demand of steel on account of present global economic turmoil as per the details given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) No major steel companies in the country, both in public and private sectors, have reported shedding of jobs on account of reduction in production.

Statement

Production of crude steel (In thousand tonnes)

Producer	September			October			November		
	% Change			% Change			% Change		
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A. Public Sector									
SAIL (Plant-wise)									
Bhilai Steel Plant	397	443	-	449	453	-	452	428	-
Durgapur Steel Plant	154	162	-	155	166	-	164	151	-
Rourkela Steel Plant	175	176	-	191	191	-	181	175	-
Bokaro Steel Plant	353	336	-	360	331	-	344	269	-
Alloy Steel Plant	12	16	-	13	17	-	14	14	-
Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel	11	7	-	14	5	-	14	6	-
Indian Iron & Steel	38	32	-	45	35	-	43	36	-
SAIL (TOTAL)	1140	1172	2.8	1227	1198	-2.4	1212	1079	-11.0
RINL	257	263	2.3	275	269	-2.2	236	205	-13.1
Sub TOTAL (A)	1397	1435	2.7	1502	1467	-2.3	1448	1284	-11.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B. Private Sector									
(i) Major Producers									
TSL	419	445	6.2	429	488	13.8	418	514	23.0
ESSAR	287	334	16.4	329	347	5.5	304	177*	-41.8
ISPAT	238	242	1.7	245	246	0.4	226	173*	-23.5
JSWL	258	272	5.4	286	278	-2.8	268	215*	-19.8
Sub Total (B) (i)	1202	1293	7.6	1289	1359	5.4	1216	1079	-11.3
(ii) Others	1840	1952	6.1	1963	2029	3.4	1837	2029#	
Sub TOTAL (B)	3042	3245	6.7	3252	3388	4.2	3053	3108#	
TOTAL (A + B)	4439	4680	5.4	4754	4855	2.1	4501	4392#	

Source : Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

* Information received directly from the respective companies.

Estimated.

National Pharma Policy

*169. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, even after 15 months of National Pharma Policy being referred to a Group of Ministers (GoM), Price control issue failed to get resolved and has landed in a legal tangle;

(b) if so, whether GoM has sought clarification on a Supreme Court order of March, 2003 and its implications;

(c) if so, whether in the GoM meeting held in April, 2008, no decision was taken on pharma policy, primarily on account of span of price control on drugs which has been interpreted as per Supreme Court Order;

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take; and

(e) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM has since been constituted and has held four meetings so far on 10.4.2007, 12.9.2007, 30.1.2008 and 30.4.2008. GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In its 4th meeting held on 30.4.2008, the GOM has asked the Department that a reference may be made to the Department of Legal Affairs about interpretation /implications of Supreme Court's Order dated 10.3.2003. In its 4th meeting itself held on 30.4.2008, the GOM among many other issues also discussed the issue of span of price control on drugs interpreted as per