

Development of stations in Orissa

1391. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Railway Ministry has any action plan for the development of Talchar Railway Station, Jaipur-Keonjhar Road, Baitrani Road and Korai and Bardallo railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Yes, Sir. Augmentation of passenger amenities is a continuous process. Details of development works taken up at these stations are given below.

JAJPUR-KEONJHAR ROAD: Provision of Platform chairs, furniture, renovation of waiting hall, retiring room, dormitory and improvement of circulating area, raising of platform etc.

TALCHAR: Improvement to lights in circulating area, improvement to drinking water system, improvement of lighting fannage and signage, provision of train indication Board, Coach Guidance Board, Touch screen system, IVRS, additional platform etc.

BAITRANI ROAD: Provision of Foot over bridge, extension of platform to accommodate 24 coaches length trains, provision of additional benches, concrete path-way on the end of platform etc.

KORAI: Extension of Platform, Concret Path-way on the end of platform, Benches and provision of fencing etc.

BARDALLO: There is no such Railway Station by name Bardallo.

Steps to curb steel prices

1392. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken serious steps to curb spiralling steel prices;
- (b) if so, whether Global Market Outlook (GMO) had taken stock of steel prices in the month of May;
- (c) if so, what steps have been taken by GMO in its meeting; and
- (d) to what extent Government has been able to curb spiralling steel prices and to what extent they have achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had taken the following measures between April-September 2008 to curb the spiralling steel prices:

- (i) DEPB on steel products was withdrawn *w.e.f.* 27.03.2008.
- (ii) Import Duty on all non-alloy steel, Zinc, ferro-alloys and metcoke was revised to 'Nil' from 5% *w.e.f.* 29.4.08.
- (iii) CVED on TMT bars and rounds was modified to 'Nil' from 14%.
- (iv) Export Duty on various categories of steel was imposed on 10.5.2008 and later enhanced on certain long products such as bars, wire rods, angles etc. *w.e.f.* 13.06.08.
- (v) Ad-valorem export duty of 15% was imposed on iron ore of all categories and grades *w.e.f.* 13.06.2008.

(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: