

(d) the legal framework created for foreign collaborations and for funding by foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Indian laboratories/institution in the forefront of research in human embryonic stem cells are Reliance Life Sciences, Mumbai (a subsidiary of Reliance Industries) and National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore. Reliance Life Sciences has developed seven stem cell lines. These cell lines have potential to differentiate into various organs. The National Centre for Biological Sciences has embryonic stem cells. Efforts are being made to develop stem cell lines.

(b) Policies and guidelines have been formulated through interministerial consultations covering ethical and commercial issues.

(c) No specific research proposal on embryonic stem cell research has so far been funded. However, Department of Biotechnology has supported research programmes on limbal stem cell, neuronal stem cell and haematopoietic stem cell to L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, National Brain Research Centre, New Delhi and Christian Medical College, Vellore, respectively.

(d) At present, there is no legal framework for International collaboration on stem cell research. There are guidelines being followed for joint research proposals. Many of the related issues are under discussion keeping in view the national interest, rules and regulations.

Winding up of Indian Iron and Steel company

738. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a show-cause notice for winding up of IISCO has been issued by BIFR;

(b) whether the hearing of the same is being held on 23rd November, 2001;

(c) if so, whether Government of India, as promoter, has raised objections against the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) which holds 100% equity of Indian Iron and Steel Co. (IISCO) has raised objections to the Show Cause Notice for winding up of IISCO as efforts are still on to revive IISCO. The objections are based on the grounds that closure would lead to industrial unrest, adverse consequences to the dependent cement plants, re-rolling mills, refractories, ferro alloy plant and ancilliary units, loss to the State Exchequer of around Rs.288 crores per annum, investments in mines and collieries would go waste, compensation liability to its employees of around Rs. 700 crores would have to be met and the facilities like coke oven batteries, blast furnaces, twin hearth furnaces and new oxygen plant would go waste.

Further, Government of India also intends to request BIFR for more time to take a decision in the matter.

Import of Brown Steel

739. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether extra deep brown steel is being imported for the automobile sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the amount incurred/being incurred;

(c) whether SAIL or other steel manufacturing units are not producing extra deep brown steel; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?