

(a) whether it is a fact that a lump sum amount of Rs.585 crores has been sanctioned in the months of December, January and February for Chhindwara-Nagpur gauge conversion;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the sanction order number and date etc.;

(c) the present progress of work of this project and the details thereof, item-wise and the target fixed to complete the same; and

(d) the present cost of the said gauge conversion project and whether the project, with the help of lump sum sanctioned amount would be completed prior to the scheduled time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) 2 Yes, Sir. Detailed estimate for Rs. 585.93 crore have been sanctioned for the work *vide* Railway Board's letter no. 2005/W-2/ SECR/GC/01 dated 15.01.2009.

(c) 50% land acquisition completed. Work on major, minor bridges, earthwork etc, taken up.

(d) The latest anticipated cost of the project is Rs.617.51 crore. An outlay of Rs.50 crore has been proposed for this work in Budget 2009-10. No target date for this work has been fixed. The project will be progressed as per availability of resources.

Promotion of Research and Development in Iron and Steel Sector

857. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scheme 'Promotion of Research and Development in Iron and Steel Sector' is still moving at snail pace without adequate fiscal allocation for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons for lethargic functioning of this scheme which was initiated specifically to increase steel production and to reduce dependency on the imported cooking coal;

(c) the steps taken by Government for optimum functioning of this programme and fiscal allocation estimated during the current year; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Steel proposed a new scheme namely "Scheme for Promotion of Research and Development in Iron and Steel Sector" during the 11th Five Year Plan Period. On receipt of the token provision from the Planning Commission for the first year of the plan (2007-08), actions were initiated to formulate the scheme in consultation with Planning Commission and other stake holders. The Planning Commission conveyed its 'in-principle' approval for scheme on 16th June, 2008 with a budgetary provision of Rs.118.00 crore. As a follow-up, the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Memorandum was prepared which was appraised by the EFC in its meeting held on 21.11.2008. The scheme was finally approved for implementation by Ministry of Finance on 23.1.2009, As per approval of Ministry of Finance, the scheme is to be effective from 1.4.2009. To operationalise the scheme

during the current financial year (2009-10) with an allocation of Rs.26 crore, research projects of national importance have since been identified. On receipt of detailed proposals from the identified organizations, these would be considered by the competent authority.

Steel Plants in Jharkhand

858. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for setting up steel manufacturing plants in Jharkhand have been signed with Government by several private entrepreneurs, particularly during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating annual production capacity envisaged in each MoU along with size of land indicated to be acquired/allotted;

(c) the current status of implementation of respective projects;

(d) whether Government has formulated any policy for socio-economic rehabilitation/resettlement of the families whose lands are to be acquired for implementation of these projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) The details of MoUs signed alongwith the name of companies for setting up of iron and steel plants in Jharkhand and the annual production capacity along with size of land indicated in each MoU project-wise are enclosed as Statement (See below) as per the record of information available in the Ministry of Steel.

(d) to (f) Government of India has already formulated National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007, which has been notified by Ministry of Rural Development vide Gazette Notification No. 26011/4/2007-LRD dated 31.10.2007.

The objectives of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy are as follows:-

- to minimise displacement and to promote/ as far as possible, non-displacing or least-displacing alternatives;
- to ensure adequate rehabilitation package and expeditious' implementation of the rehabilitation process with the active participation of the affected families;
- to ensure that special care is taken for protecting the rights of the weaker sections of society, especially members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and to create obligations on the State for their treatment with concern and sensitivity;
- to provide a better standard of living, making concerted efforts for providing sustainable income to the affected families;
- to integrate rehabilitation concerns into the development planning and implementation process; and
- where displacement is on account of land acquisition, to facilitate harmonious relationship between the requiring body and affected families through mutual cooperation.

The National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 is available for public information in the Ministry of Rural Development's site i.e. <http://www.rural.nic.in> / <http://www.rural.nic.in/policy.htm>