

As may be seen from above, steel export from India to USA is between 8-14%. However with the advent of global economic slowdown in post October 2008, total steel exports from India has declined by (-) 19.6% between September 2008 and March 2009 and by (-) 37.8% between April-June 2009 on year-on-year basis. Decline in steel exports from India has not affected the domestic steel industry as the Indian steel consumption has shown a rising trend. During January to June 2009, steel consumption in the country has grown by 4.4% on year-on-year basis.

(b) International steel prices were in the range of US\$ 410-570 in 2004 which rose to US\$ 1000-1260 during April-September 2008. During this period price of input materials like coking coal and iron ore also increased substantially leading to rise in cost of production of steel. However there is no authentic information that India was the second major gainer in terms of unit price of export as placed in the question.

(c) As stated earlier Indian exports started to decline as domestic demand grew at a faster pace compared to domestic production. However, the sharp decline after October 2008 can be attributed to the global financial meltdown. The widespread recession in the global economy and the subsequent crisis in the automobile, consumer durable and capital goods industries all over the world and especially in the destination markets for Indian exports of steel resulted in decline in steel exports. The following policy initiatives have been taken by the Government to boost the export of steel:

(i) Export Duty on all steel items (except melting scrap) withdrawn w.e.f. 31.10.2008.

(ii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates on steel items restored w.e.f. 14.11.2008.

Electrification of rail sections

†*208. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of her Ministry for electrification of rail sections;

(b) whether it is not appropriate that maximum rail sections be electrified; and

(c) the total number of proposals received from the State of Rajasthan for electrification of rail sections along with the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Electrification of railway routes is decided based on the operational requirements and financial viability.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is desirable to electrify rail sections which satisfy the criteria of operational requirements and financial viability. In the state of Rajasthan, 600 out of 5683 Route Kilometres (RKMs) are electrified and in the country as a whole 18942 out of 63273 RKMs are electrified.

(c) The following proposals for electrification of rail sections have been received in about last three years pertaining to the routes passing from the State of Rajasthan and their present status is as under:-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

S.No.	Name of the proposed section(s)	Status
1	Bina-Kota	Electrification work is in progress and targeted for completion by March 2010.
2	Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur	Proposal under consideration.
3	Ratlam-Neemuch-Chittorgarh	For electrification, these sections are not in the priority at present.
4	Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad	
5	Agra-Bharatpur	
6	Kota-Chittorgarh	
7	Kandla-Bhatinda	

Universal Immunization

*209. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- whether the objective of universal immunization programme have been fulfilled;
- if not, the reasons therefor; and
- how many children have been immunized under this programme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) has fulfilled the objective to a large extent by protecting against 6 deadly Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) namely, Tuberculosis, Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Measles.

All efforts are being made to increase immunization coverages uniformly in all the states.

(c) The recent District Level Household Survey (DLHS-3) (2007-08) for which the provisional data are available, when compared to the District Level Household Survey (DLHS-2) (2002-04), shows an increase in coverage for all the antigens, as reflected in table below:

(Figures in percentage)

Survey	BCG	DPT3	OPV3	Measles	Fully Immunized Children
DLHS-2 (2002-04)	75.0	58.3	57.3	56.1	45.9
DLHS-3 (2007-08)	56.9	63.6	66.2	69.6	54.1

SOURCE: India Fact Sheet DLHS-3 (Provisional data)

In addition 73.5% pregnant women have received at least 1 TT injection during the pregnancy.