

(e) whether any central labour organization has recently submitted any application to become its member; and

(f) if so, the reasons for not making it the member?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) The National Joint Committee for the Steel Industry (NJCS) is an independent national level forum for settling matters related to workers and it works on bi-partite principles. NJCS consists of the representatives of Central Trade Unions i.e. AITUC, INTUC, CITU and HMS and management representatives. At present there are 37 members in NJCS, but the nominees in the NJCS keep changing from time to time.

NJCS was earlier known as the 'Joint Wage Negotiating Committee for the Steel Industry' and it was constituted in pursuance of a decision taken at the second session of the Industrial Committee on Iron and Steel in October, 1969. The Committee was formed under the aegis of the Labour Ministry.

In February, 1971, it was decided that this Committee would continue its work independently without any assistance from the Labour Ministry and would raise its own funds including contribution from the workers' representatives. After signing of the first Agreement in October, 1970, the scope of the Committee was enlarged. Since then, the Committee has been continuously functioning and successfully arrived at seven Wage Agreements for the workers of the Steel Industry.

(d) Till date 261 meetings of NJCS have been held and seven Wage Agreements have been settled.

(e) and (f) NJCS is a bi-partite forum where all decisions are taken by consensus and are binding on both parties. Requests from different trade union organizations have been received for inclusion in NJCS. Since NJCS is an independent forum, a final decision in this regard would be its prerogative.

Rationalization of work force in SAIL

1638. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has resorted to rationalization of its work force and is likely to eliminate about 20,000 employees by the year 2011; and

(b) if so, how it is proposed to be done and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is a Navratna Company with a manpower strength of 121295 as on 1/4/2009. With a view to increase competitiveness and productivity, SAIL has been rationalizing its manpower on an ongoing basis.

With rationalization of manpower, several systemic changes such as cluster system of working, flexibility in deployment, automated working, and adoption of best practices have been promoted,

thereby leading to improved efficiency and better work culture. It is expected that the manpower will reduce by about 20000 by 2011-12 if the existing trend of separation of workers continues. However, the rationalization will be done mainly through normal superannuation of employees on attaining the age of 60 years as well as through Voluntary Separation Schemes.

Construction of steel plants at Burdwan

1639. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited is objecting construction of three steel plants at Burdwan's Andal as this would make inaccessible coal reserves from the above area;
- (b) if so, whether any consultation with the State of West Bengal have been held;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) what action his Ministry is taking to set up steel plants in non-coal bearing areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) Some of the areas for the proposed steel plants are likely to have coal seams below the mining leases of Eastern Coal Fields Limited (ECL), which is a subsidiary of Coal India Limited. Coal India Limited (CIL) has brought to the notice of State Government of West Bengal that some other proposed industrial projects, including some steel plants may have coal bearing areas, which is likely to have an adverse impact on coal reserves.

Government of West Bengal has informed CIL that henceforth, the State Government will not make any identification or allotment of land in coal bearing areas for any industrial purpose, without prior consultation with CIL.

(d) The allocation of land for setting up steel plants are decided by the concerned State Government and Ministry of Steel does not play any direct role in such matters.

Employment demand by displaced families

1640. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether families whose land has been acquired for steel plant at Salem in Tamil Nadu are agitating for employment of one person per family; and
- (b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Tamil Nadu had acquired an area of 3973.08 acres of land from 3002 families for Salem Steel Plant during the period 1970-83. Regarding the offer of employment to displaced families, the CPSUs are governed by Government guidelines and Court orders. The writ petitions filed by the displaced families at Salem were dismissed by a Single Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras with a direction that the individuals should get themselves sponsored by the