

(b) whether it is a fact that Jharsuguda railway station, which is one of the first railway stations in Orissa has been neglected for a long time and no developmental work has been carried out there causing difficulties to passengers;

(c) whether any developmental activities are undertaken by Railways in the southern Orissa especially nearby Jharsuguda railway station; and

(d) the demands submitted by Orissa Government to Railways in connection with railway improvement and new lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Development of railway stations including stations located in the State of Orissa is a continuous process. 36 stations in the State of Orissa have been taken up under various developmental schemes including Adarsh station scheme.

Development of Jharsuguda station as Adarsh station has also been taken up and is planned for completion by December, 2010.

(d) Demands have been received from Orissa State Government for increase in allocation to the ongoing projects and also for taking up certain projects in the State.

Increase in price of forging quality steel

1046. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the prices of forging quality steel have risen much more than increase in prices of inputs required for steel making;

(b) whether according to experts, direct impact of this hike of around Rs. 6600/- per metric tonnes on the price index will be about 1.55 per cent which would ultimately affect common man apart from rendering Indian forging industry uncompetitive in global pricing and set back to export; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps Government proposes to take to save Indian forging industry from this big blow of price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Steel sector operates in a deregulated environment and in a liberalized market prices are determined by a multitude of complex factors such as cost of raw materials, production cost, international steel price movement and the demand supply gap in the domestic market. Further, in case of value added steel items like forging grade steel the price would also depend on additional factors such as intellectual value addition, process, and cost of technology. The movement of 'forging steel' in the Whole Sale Price Index (WPI), and the Rate of Inflation based on WPI, maintained by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion from January, 2009 to January, 2010 is given in the Statement (See below). These indicate that price of forging steel in the domestic market has been stable over the past one year.

(c) In a deregulated market the role of a Government is limited to that of facilitator. Nonetheless, the Government keeps a close watch on the price movement of commodities such as steel and takes appropriate fiscal measures whenever necessary.

Statement

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for Basic Metals and Alloys

Commodities	Weight	Jan.'09	Feb.'09	Mar.'09	Apr.'09	May'09	Jun.'09	Jul.'09	Aug.'09	Sep.'09	Oct.'09	Nov.'09	Dec.'09	Jan.'10
Forging	0.03	389.7	389.7	389.7	389.7	389.7	389.7	389.7	389.7	363.5	284.8	284.8	284.8	284.8

Rate of inflation based on WPI for Basic Metals and Alloys

Commodities	Weight	Jan.'09	Feb.'09	Mar.'09	Apr.'09	May'09	Jun.'09	Jul.'09	Aug.'09	Sep.'09	Oct.'09	Nov.'09	Dec.'09	Jan.'10
Forging	21.63	21.63	11.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-6.72	-26.92	-26.92	-26.92	-26.92