

US Dollar/Tonne

Month	Iron Ore	Met Coke	Scrap
April 09	63	425	208
May 09	68	390	220
June 09	78	390	210
July 09	91	390	230
August 09	99	390	285
September 09	87	395	303
October 09	91	395	265
November 09	101	395	270
December 09	110	455	320
January 10	132	473	320
February 10	128	473	328
March 10	143	495	370
April 10	165	495	453

(Source : Economic Research Unit)

Presently, there is no import duty on import of coking coal, metallurgical coke (met coke) and iron and steel scrap, three of the essential raw materials imported into the country.

Shortage of steel products

3994. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of steel products in several States including Gujarat and there is vast gap between demand and supply in Surat, Mehsana, Rajkot, Bharuch and Amreli districts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether as a result of shortage of steel products hoarding and black-marketing of such products have been resorted by the agencies/dealers;

(d) if so, the details of such cases; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to meet the demands of consumer and prevent black marketing/hoarding of steel products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) No report regarding shortage or hoarding and black marketing of steel products has been received in Ministry of Steel.

12.00 Noon.

The data of sale of finished steel in Gujarat during the last two years by both the public sector steel companies namely Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) are given below which indicate that there is a growth in sale of finished steel in Gujarat in the year 2009-10 compared to 2008-09:-

Name of Company	2008-09	2009-10	Growth in 2009-10
SAIL	2,51,630	2,80,360	11.4%
RINL	1,31,000	1,60,000	22.0%

Source : SAIL and RINL

SAIL caters demand of steel in Gujarat through two Branch Sales Offices and Warehouses, one each at Ahmadabad and Baroda, and 22 dealers in the following districts of Gujarat:-

District	Number of Dealers as on 1.4.2010
Surat	4
Mehsana	4
Rajkot	5
Bharuch	7
Amreli	2

RINL caters demand of steel in Gujarat by one Branch Office and Stockyard at Ahmedabad and one District Level Dealer at Vadodara.

The sale prices of various steel products are fixed by the respective companies and their dealers are required to display the prices of various steel items prominently.

(e) Steel is a de-regulated sector. The Government in such a market economy has role of a facilitator only - it provides the overall policy environment to promote growth of industry. Storage and distribution of finished steel products are commercial activities of the companies producing or trading in steel. The Government has no direct role to play in it. The Government has been encouraging the steel producers to enlarge their distribution network through retail outlets to ensure that steel is easily available to the distantly located buyers/potential buyers.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): Sir, what about Zero Hour? ...*(Interruptions)*