

**श्री ब्रजेश पाठक:** राज्य सरकार पर आरोप लगाकर आप सरकार चलाने चाहते हैं, यह नहीं हो सकता है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry this is not correct. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल:** महोदय, मैंने दो सवाल किया था ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** सवाल एक होता है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल:** महोदय, मैंने गेहूं की खरीद के बारे में भी पूछा था ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री ब्रजेश पाठक:** महोदय ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already given a ruling on this. Now let the next question be addressed. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल:** महोदय ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री ब्रजेश पाठक:** महोदय ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will examine the record and then decide. Thank you. Question No.504.

\*504. [The questioner (Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad) was absent.]

### **इस्पात की मांग में वृद्धि**

\*504. **श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद :** क्या **इस्पात मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विगत छः महीनों के दौरान देश में इस्पात की मांग में वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो दिसंबर, 2009 से मार्च, 2010 की अवधि के दौरान इस मांग में कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है;

(ग) क्या इस मांग को पूरा करने के लिए देश में इस्पात के प्रचुर मात्रा में उत्पादन की क्षमता स्थापित की गई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उत्पादन-क्षमता एवं मांग के बीच का अंतराल कितना है?

**इस्पात मंत्री (श्री वीरभद्र सिंह):** (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

### **विवरण**

(क) देश में इस्पात की मांग परिसर्जित इस्पात की खपत से जुड़ी हुई है। संयुक्त संयंत्र समिति (जेपीसी) द्वारा संकलित अनंतिम आंकड़े यह इंगित करते हैं कि गत 6 माह अर्थात् अक्तूबर से मार्च, 2009-10 के दौरान परिसर्जित इस्पात की घरेलू खपत में गत वर्ष की समान अवधि की तुलना में 11.3 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है।

(ख) दिसंबर, 2009 की तुलना में मार्च, 2010 में परिसर्जित इस्पात की खपत 19.4 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। तथापि, इस्पात की खपत का पैटर्न मौसमी परिवर्तनों पर निर्भर करता है।

(ग) और (घ) वर्ष 2009-10 के लिए जेपीसी द्वारा जारी अनंतिम आंकड़ों के अनुसार अपरिष्कृत इस्पात की 72.76 मिलियन टन घरेलू क्षमता की तुलना में परिसर्जित इस्पात का उत्पादन 59.69 मिलियन टन और परिसर्जित इस्पात की घरेलू खपत 56.48 मिलियन टन है। इससे इंगित होता है कि देश में इस्पात की वर्तमान मांग से इस्पात उत्पादन की घरेलू क्षमता अधिक है।

### **Increase in demand for Steel**

†\*504. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demand for steel has increased in the country during last six months;

(b) if so, the percentage increase in this demand during the period from December, 2009 to March, 2010;

(c) whether capacity to produce steel in huge quantity has been established in the country to meet this demand; and

(d) if so, the gap between production capacity and demand?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### ***Statement***

(a) The demand for steel is characterized by consumption of finished steel in the country. The provisional data compiled by the Joint Plant Committee (JP<sup>2</sup>) indicate that during the last six months *i.e.* October to March 2009-10, the domestic consumption of finished steel has recorded a growth of 11.3% over the corresponding period of last year.

(b) The consumption of finished steel in March, 2010 has increased 19.4% as compared to December, 2009. However, the steel consumption pattern is dependent upon seasonal variation.

(c) and (d) As per the provisional data released by the JPC for the year 2009-10, against the domestic crude steel capacity of 72.76 million tonnes the production of finished steel is 59.69 million tonnes, and domestic consumption of finished steel is 56.48 million tonnes. It indicates that the domestic steel production capacity is higher than the current demand for steel in the country.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, I would just draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the last sentence of his reply which has been laid on the Table of this House, which says that the domestic steel production capacity is higher than the current demand of steel in this country. Would the Minister like to comment on the anomaly that India has the lowest consumption of steel? We have one of the highest prices of steel. And for an economy which is growing at about 8 per cent, with the objective of going at a higher rate, how is it that our demand is way below acceptable international averages leading to the anomaly of domestic production being higher than what really is the demand? Is it because productivity is low or because of cost of steel in this country has kept the demand artificially suppressed?

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has put a very pertinent question. The figures that I have given pertain to the position as it prevails today. In

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The last financial year, the production of steel was more than the demand in the country.

But, I fully agree with him that the demand for steel is growing day-by-day by leaps and bounds. Also, per capita consumption of steel, which is one of the lowest in the world today, stands at only 34 kg. It is also going to grow. Keeping this in view, we have undertaken a massive expansion of our steel making facilities in the country, both in the private and also in the public sector. I would like to tell the hon. Member, at present, the domestic consumption of finished steel is 56.48 million tones. We envisage a plan by which this production will go up to 120 million tones by the year 2011-12. While calculating this, we have not taken into consideration the Greenfield projects. Sir, only the Brownfield projects and special programmes by the PSUs and other companies which have Brownfield projects have been calculated and I am sanguine that we will be able to achieve this goal.

**श्री राजीव शुक्ल :** सभापति जी, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि जो स्टील के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, उसके संबंध में domestic steel manufacturers की शिकायत है? उनका कहना है कि जो iron ore है, उसका चीन और अन्य देशों को निर्यात करने पर बहुत जोर है और iron ore निर्यात माफियाज़ इस तरह से सक्रिय हैं कि इनको बहुत महंगा iron ore मिलता है, जिसकी वजह से वे दाम बढ़ाते हैं, जबकि जो फैसिलिटी इन iron ore निर्यात माफियाज़ को दी जाती है, उस पर किसी किस्म का कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है, खास तौर से जो 64+ quality iron ore है, उसको लेकर सबसे ज्यादा विवाद है। तो इस मामले में मंत्री जी का क्या कहना है?

**श्री वीरभद्र सिंह :** सर, वैसे तो steel prices के बारे में आज एक क्वेश्चन और आने वाला है, क्वेश्चन नंबर 515, यदि आप आज्ञा दें, तो मैं इसका भी जवाब दे सकता हूँ।

**श्री राजीव शुक्ल :** हां, दीजिए।

**श्री सभापति :** आप इस सवाल का जवाब दीजिए।

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Sir, I was saying that there is similar question — Question No. 515 — slated for oral reply today regarding the steel prices.

**श्री राजीव शुक्ल :** हां, तो बताइए। आप अभी भी दे सकते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. We are not clubbing the questions. You just reply to this supplementary. Please do not go on to another question.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Sir, I don't know which mafia the hon. Member is talking about.

**श्री राजीव शुक्ल :** सर, आप मेरा सवाल समझ नहीं पाए। क्या iron ore export पर इतना जोर है कि जो domestic steel manufacturing industry है, उसको पर्याप्त iron ore मिल नहीं पाता है, इसलिए steel products के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं?

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Sir, he has also raised a good question.

We have a big store of iron ore reserves in the country. But, at the same time, the Ministry of Steel is of the view that we should do everything possible to conserve our iron ore in the country. At present, we are just exporting iron ore at a throw away prices. This will be having impact on the prices of steel. So, it is better to export the finished products than exporting iron

ore. We must export value added products instead of exporting iron ore. At the same time, I am not aware of any mafia as such. I think, this question should be addressed to the Mines Ministry.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, exporting cannot be at a throwaway price.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, the hon. Minister's reply reflects the complacency. When the record says that in 2009-10, the finished steel capacity was 59.69 million tones, the domestic demand was 56.48 million tones. The margin is very thin. Our country is also exporting steel to outside. If the export is also taken into account, I think, we are in shortage of steel. Hon. Minister himself has assured that 120 million tones capacity would be reached by 2020. My question to the hon. Minister is: If that is the vision of production by 2020, the input requirement within the country, particularly the precious iron ore, will also go up. So, will the Minister seriously consider to put an absolute ban on export of all kinds of iron ore... which the hon. Minister himself just now told, are being sold at throwaway prices. So, I would like to know whether that 'selling at throwaway prices' requires a ban and whether the Steel Minister is going to take a serious step in that direction.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Sir, so far as I am concerned, as a Minister of Steel, I have a considered view that there should be a total ban on the export of iron-ores so as to meet the domestic requirement of the country. But, of course, the Government does not function only with one Ministry. I will impress upon the Government, upon the Prime Minister and upon the Finance Minister also to consider the proposal for a total ban on export of iron-ores. But it can be achieved through other methods also. It can be achieved by some taxation measures also to discourage the export of iron-ores.

#### **Import of raw sugar**

\*505. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of sugar imported in the financial year 2009-10;
- (b) whether there is any problem in processing of raw imported sugar in the country, especially in Jharkhand; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to sort out the matter and also to increase the availability of sugar in the domestic market in order to control the soaring prices of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### ***Statement***

- (a) As per report dated 07.04.2010 of the Department of Revenue, the quantity of the custom cleared imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar in financial year 2009-10 (from 17.4.2009 to 31.3.2010) is 26.84 lac tons and 12.64 lac tons respectively.