

done in economically backward States like Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand etc., is adequately taken care of; and

(c) whether it is a fact that displaced tribals in Jharkhand mining operations had to resort to agitation to protect their rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Based on the progress of steel expansion capacity projects, being undertaken by the major steel investors and as per the information furnished by the respective companies, the total steel production capacity in India is expected to be 120 million tonnes by December 2012. As far as the technology, operation methods and type of products is concerned, the details of these are decided by the individual companies based upon techno-commercial considerations.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected from the respective State Governments and will be laid on the table of the House.

Depletion of iron-ore reserve

1484. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our mineral reserves of iron-ore are depleting day-by-day due to heavy export from the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is tremendous increase seen in last ten years for export of iron-ore from the country; and

(c) the plans Government is formulating to protect reserves of iron-ore in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that our mineral reserves of iron ore are depleting due to its heavy export from the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. The export of iron ore from the country has increased from a level of 37.49 million tonnes during 2000-01 to a level of 117.37 million tonnes during the year 2009-10.

(c) The Government has decided that conservation of iron ore resources of the country is of paramount importance and the same may be achieved by taking recourse to appropriate fiscal measures. Presently, an export duty of 5% is leviable on iron ore fines whereas 15% export duty is leviable on other varieties of iron ore.