

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) New BG line from Sivok to Rangpo (50.87 km) has been entrusted to M/s IRCON for execution and work has commenced on 20.02.2010. Work is in preliminary stage and project details are being firmed up. Sivok-Rangpo new line is targeted for completion by December, 2015.

Khurda-Bolangir railway line

2257. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for shifting the Khurda-Bolangir railway line under construction for nearly two decades into the hands of RVNL; and
- (b) whether Government would give a firm revised time schedule for completion of this line which is crucial to Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Khurda Road - Bolangir new line (289 km) project was included in the Budget 1994-95. In the first phase, work has been taken up in 36 km length and is targeted for completion during 2010-11. The work is progressing as per the availability of resources. To explore alternate funding sources, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has been advised to conduct bankability studies.

Bringing down rising prices of steel

2258. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether bringing mines of 'iron ore' and that of "metal" under Steel Ministry would help in bringing down rising prices of steel because of better functional efficiency, thereby achieving enhancement in productivity and lowering the production cost;
- (b) if so, whether this will also give fillip to expansion of existing steel plants, especially in the private sector; and

(c) whether State Governments are giving full co-operation towards setting up of new steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Steel prices are deregulated and at any point of time the prices of steel in the domestic market depend upon the demand-supply scenario, prices of similar products in international market and cost of raw materials.

The items to be looked after by each of the administrative 'Ministries/Departments' under Government of India are allocated in terms of 'Allocation of Business Rules' and the decision thereof on any matter is the decision of the Government of India, irrespective of the Ministry to which the subject is allocated. However, it is important while allocating raw material resources claims of steel producers should be kept in mind.

Bringing the subject of 'iron ore' under Ministry of Steel may not have any direct impact on the steel prices, as both the prices of steel as well as iron ore are in the deregulated market.

(c) The role of the State Governments in facilitating the steel investment projects is in the areas of land allotments rehabilitation, iron ore mines, water resources and maintenance of law and order. The issues are directly dealt by the steel investors with the concerned state governments. On its part, Ministry of Steel is also coordinating the major issues through the forum of Inter-Ministerial group meetings.

Setting up of steel plant at Surat

2259. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Gujarat to set up gas based steel plant at Surat on joint venture with Steel Authority of India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to expedite the process of setting up of new modern gas based steel plant unit at Surat, Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.