

Import of cheap steel

3494. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the indiscriminate import of cheap steel from foreign countries has affected the indigenous steel industry as their inventory has been piling up;

(b) if so, the details of the indigenous production of various categories of steel demand and imports during the last two years;

(c) whether there is a surge in imports, if so, how it has affected the indigenous steel industry;

(d) whether the steel industry has taken up the matter with Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The total stock position of steel as on 01.08.2010 with the domestic producers is 1.62 million tonnes *i.e.* around 10 days production, which is the average norm. The increase in import of steel is apparently due to the increase in steel demand in the country. During the year 2009-10, consumption of finished steel in the country has grown by 7.9%, whereas the production has increased by 4.4%. Similarly, during April to July period of 2010-11, the increase in steel consumption is 10.7%, whereas production increase is 2.7%. Normally, the excess demand to steel in the domestic market is met through imports. No apparent adverse impact causing injury to the domestic producers, on account of imports, has been noticed, so far.

(b) The Production, import and consumption of all categories of finished steel products are given below:—

(in million tonnes)			
Period	Production	Import	Real Consumption
2008-09	57.16	5.84	52.35
2009-10	59.69	7.29	56.48
2010-11 (April-July)	19.99	3.67	19.98

(c) The import of steel during the period of April-July, 2010 is 3.67 million tonnes against 2.20 million tonnes during April-July, 2009, which is an increase of 66%. However during the same period the consumption of finished steel in the country has also increased from 18.06 million tonnes to 19.98 million tonnes. The indigenous steel production, during the period of April-July, 2010 has also increased from 19.44 million tonnes to 19.99 million tonnes.

(d) and (e) A section of steel industry had represented to the Ministry of Steel, requesting to bring the import of “Hot Rolled Coil” into ‘restricted category’ of imports. At the same time the consumers of Hot Rolled Coil had also represented not to impose any kind of restriction on imports of Hot Rolled Coil. In this regard, a discussion was held in the Ministry of Steel, on 6.8.2010, with major Hot Rolled Coil producers and consumers. Ministry of Steel is closely monitoring the situation on production, demand, import and prices of all categories of steel products and will initiate appropriate action, whenever necessary.

Land acquisition for Salem Steel Plant

3495. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand to provide relief including jobs to people whose land has been acquired for the purpose of Steel Plant at Salem in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government of Tamil Nadu had also made a request in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Tamil Nadu had acquired an area of 3973.08 acres of land in a phased manner for Salem Plant between 1970 and 1983, on account of which 3002 families had been displaced. The persons from whom lands were acquired have demanded that they be provided employment opportunities on priority basis. A request from the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu regarding provision of employment opportunities to displaced persons was also received by the Government. Salem Steel Plant of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. being a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) is governed by Government guidelines and Court Orders. The vacancies are notified to the local employment exchange under the Compulsory Notification of Vacancies Act and recruitment notices are also published in the press, wherever any vacancy arises. The candidates can apply against such notification/advertisement and their candidature is considered for employment, as per the rules of the company and all things being equal, due preference is given to displaced persons in line of the judgements of the Hon’ble High Court of Madras. A total of 212 of legal heirs of the displaced persons have been provided jobs so far.

Merging of Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Limited

†3496. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the merger of Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) located at Kalinga Nagar in Orissa with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been decided in principle;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.