

(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.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) There is no proposal for merger of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) located at Kalinga Nagar in Orissa with Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL). However, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) has plans to acquire equity stake in NINL. The process of valuation of the equity shares of NINL based on due diligence has since been carried out and communicated to Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) for appropriate action.

Schemes to promote steel producing units

3497. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has special schemes to promote new steel producing units in the country; and

(b) whether Government would initiate more schemes by making use of the iron-ore to make value added products like steel rather than ore exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) No, Sir. Government of India has no special schemes to promote new steel producing units. All other general schemes for industrial and regional development, as formulated otherwise by Central Government and respective State Governments, are, however, applicable to steel units.

(b) There is no special scheme for making use of the iron ore to make value added products like steel. Presently, in order to conserve iron ore resources, there is an export duty of 5% on iron ore fines and 15% on other varieties of iron ore.

R&D in iron and steel sector

†3498. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes launched for Research and Development (R & D) in iron and steel sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the scheme-wise cost thereof and likely benefits therefrom; and

(c) the details of present status of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Steel Industry, a new scheme *i.e.* Scheme for Promotion of R&D in Iron and Steel Sector with an outlay of Rs. 118.00 crore has been launched by the Government during Eleventh Five Year Plan. Further it has been decided to pursue R&D on three broad areas namely (i) Development to innovative/path breaking technologies utilizing Indian iron ore fines and non coking coal (ii) Improvement of quality of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.