

(e) The study would cover 300 districts, 1500 villages, 4500 Manufacturers and 8000 Retailers, spread over all the 35 States and Union Territories of the country. The objective of the study is to assess trends in consumption pattern of different items of steel in the rural areas, by examining both a) the demand side *i.e.* Household and Community/Institutional uses; and b) the supply side *i.e.* manufacturers, Retailers. Additionally, the study would examine the potential for increasing the level of steel consumption, the nature of shifts and the extent of threat of substitution from competing materials.

Setting up of mini steel plants

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

(a) whether Government proposes to set up more mini steel plants in the country;

(b) if so, the number of licences given by Government to install mini steel plants at Surat-Mehsana-Rajkot-Amreli and Bharuch and the basis on which these licences have been issued; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to promote setting up of mini steel plants in the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) and (c) According to the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, steel industry has been de-licensed and removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector subject to certain locational restrictions. No industrial licence is, therefore, required for setting up steel plants under the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 and the entrepreneurs are free to set up such plants anywhere in the country except in the restricted locations based on their commercial judgement. The role of Government is that of a facilitator for an overall and healthy growth of steel sector in the country.

(b) As per information furnished by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), no licence has been issued by the Government of India for setting up of mini steel plants for the districts Surat, Mehiana, Rajkot, Amroli and Baruch during the last three years.

Breaking down of Bhilai Steel Plant

†707. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the breakdown in one of the power plants in Bhilai factory recently;

(b) the number of days the plant remained closed and whether any enquiry has been made in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) the names of other units affected due to closure of this plant;
- (d) the total loss incurred; and
- (e) the measures taken to check the recurring of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) There was a fire in the cable tunnel of power plant-I at Bhilai Steel Plant on the mid night of 31st January, 2010 due to breakdown of high tension (6.6 KV) cable pertaining to a ball mill motor. Earth fault signal appeared in the system along with breakdown of cable.

(b) The power plant was down for three days. Enquiries have been conducted by departmental and independent committees.

(c) Blast furnaces and other downstream units were affected due to closure of the power plant.

(d) The assessable loss incurred due to the fire is Rs. 10.49 crores while notional loss on account of production shortfall is Rs. 166.83 crores.

(e) The measures initiated to check the recurrence of such incidents include:

- (i) Laying of cables for Boilers 5 and 6 and other similar vital installations in separate overhead and alternate cable routes.
- (ii) Frequent thermal imaging and temperature scanning of cables.
- (iii) Installation of fire detection and alarm systems in Power and Boiling Station and other units of the plant, cable tunnels/cable cellars.
- (iv) Installation of passive fire protection systems such as Fire Stop Barriers, Fire Resistance coatings, etc.
- (v) Replacement of all old PILC cables with new fire resistant XLPE cables.

Price rise of steel

708. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether common man of the country is worried about the inordinate price rise of steel; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to bring the price of steel to the bare minimum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Steel has not carried out any study to examine the impact of price rise of steel on common man of the country. However, a number of representations have been received from Steel Consumers Associations/Federations, during March - April 2010, wherein they have mentioned their concern about the price rise of steel, on the small and medium sector industries.