

[24th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) In view of its unsatisfactory liquidity position, and with a view to improve long term competitiveness, SAIL has decided to concentrate on its core business and to separate such activities/units which are either unviable or non-core and ancillary to its main business.

Accordingly, SAIL has initiated the process of conversion of the following assets into joint ventures while protecting the jobs of the existing employees:

(i) Power Plants at Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela

- 2x60 MW Captive power plant-II at Rourkela Steel Plant and the Central Power training Institute at Rourkela
- 2x50 MW Captive power plant-II at Durgapur Steel Plant
- 122 MW (2x55 MW +12 MW back pressure turbine) Captive Power Plant 13x60 MW Captive Power Plant II and steam generating capacity of 660 MT/hour at Bokaro Steel Plant

(ii) Oxygen Plant-II of Bhilai Steel Plant

(iii) Salem Steel Plant (SSP), Salem (iv)

Alloy Steels Plant (ASP), Durgapur

(v) Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISP), Bhadravati

(vi) Fertilizer Plant at Rourkela

(vii) Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO)

(d) and (e) There is no proposal at present for disinvestment of Government's equity in SAIL.

Average expenses incurred by SAIL

131. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the average expenses incurred by SAIL by way of marketing and affecting sale of its products per tonne;

(b) how do these expenses compare with its competitors like Tata and others;

(c) whether it is a fact that material delivered to yards of SAIL keeps lying for couple of months; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that SAIL material is sold in the market generally by offering discounts ranging from 15 per cent to 20 per cent on the standard prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Expenses on marketing of various products at different locations vary from case to case. Further, such information is not monitored by the Government.

(c) Duration of holding of stock of different products at various stockyards is dependent on the prevailing market conditions as well as operational factors.

(d) No, Sir.

Tribes living nomadic life

132. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of tribes are still living nomadic life;

(b) if so, what are the names and the total population of such tribes; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to educate them and to settle them permanently?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names and total population of all the nomadic tribes in the country are not available in the Ministry. Birhor in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Orissa and Mankirdia in Orissa are nomadic Schedule Tribes in those States. The population of these Scheduled Tribes are given below:—

Birhor	— 5080
Mankirdia	— 133

(c) Though there is no scheme exclusively for nomadic tribes, these groups are covered under normal programmes of the State Government meant for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.