

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, sir. The Board of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL), along with its Subcommittee, Government of Orissa and the Government of India i.e. the Ministry of commerce and the Ministry of steel reviewed the progress of NINL periodically.

(b) to (d) NINL is setting up an integrated steel plant with a nominal capacity of 1.1 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) for the production of pig iron (0.492 MTPA), steel billets (0.324 MTPA) and steel wire rods (0.300 MTPA). The integrated steel plant is being set up in phases. While phase-I comprises of the blast furnace complex for production of Pig Iron, phase-II comprises of the steel making and rolling facilities for production of steel billets/wire rods. Physical progress as on 31.6.2000 in respect of phase-I is as under:

- * 85% of civil work is completed.
- * 100% of structural fabrication is completed.
- * 85% of structural erection is completed.
- * 42% of equipment is erected.
- * 61 % of refractory is erected.

According to the available information, Phase-I of the project is likely to be commissioned by early 2001 and shall be followed by commercial production thereafter. The construction work of phase-II to produce steel is in progress.

Proposal to sell non-core units by SAIL

130. SHRI BJ. PANDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) proposes to sell some of the non-core units;

(b) if so, the reasons for the disinvestment of these units;

(c) what are the details of these units;

(d) whether the disinvestment of these units are part of SAIL's disinvestment proposal; and

(e) if so, the details of the proposal of Government in that regard?

[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;