

1	2	3	4
2007-08	52.12	58.02	7.03
2008-09	52.35	58.57	5.84
2009-10*	56.48	63.75	7.29
April-Dec 2010*	48.15	51.73	5.36
April-Dec 2009	44.22	48.26	5.24

Source: Joint Plant Committee; \* =provisional

#### Bringing down prices of steel

†894. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures the Ministry has taken to bring down the price of steel;
- (b) the details thereof; and
- (c) the mechanism in place to prevent manufactures from increasing price of steel anticipating an increase in raw materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA):  
(a) to (c) Steel sector operates in a deregulated environment and in a liberalized market, prices are determined by a multitude of complex factors such as cost of raw materials, production cost, international steel price movement and the demand supply gap in the domestic market. In a deregulated market the role of a Government is limited to that of a facilitator. Nonetheless, the Government keeps a close watch on the price movement of commodities such as steel and takes appropriate fiscal measures whenever necessary, in order to ensure domestic availability and create a level playing field.

#### Accidents in steel plants

†895. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of accidents took place in different steel plants of public sector of the country during the last three years and current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, plant-wise;
- (c) the loss of human lives and property due to such accidents;
- (d) the outcome of investigations made in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the average annual expenditure incurred upon the maintenance of these plants; and

(f) the amount of expenditure incurred upon the replacement of plant's pipelines, electrical repairing and mechanical maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA):  
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of fatal and other reportable accidents which occurred in different steel plants and units of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) during the last three years and the current year (upto January, 2011) are given in the table below:

Plants/Units	Fatal accidents (fatality)				Other reportable accidents (excluding fatal accidents)			
	2008	2009	2010	2011*	2008	2009	2010	2011*
<b>Steel Authority of India Ltd.</b>								
Bhilai Steel Plant	6	2	0	0	2	11	3	0
Durgapur Steel Plant	1	1	4	0	2	2	2	0
Rourkela Steel Plant	4	4	4	0	14	16	10	2
Bokaro Steel Plant	4	10	8	0	21	12	15	0
IISCO Steel Plant	4	3	10	1	20	10	26	3
Alloy Steel Plant	2	0	0	0	3	3	2	0
Salem Steel Plant	0	5	1	0	3	4	2	0
Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant	0	0	0	1	21	13	10	0
Mines/Collieries and other Units	4	3	6	0	75	50	39	5
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	5	11	10	2	59	57	46	5

\*upto January, 2011

(c) As reported by SAIL and RINL, the loss of life due to fatal accidents that had occurred in SAIL and RINL during the last three years and for the current year (upto January, 2011) is given in the table below:

Year	SAIL	RINL
2008	25	05
2009	28	11
2010	33	10
2011 (upto January, 2011)	02	02

There has been no damage to property on account of these accidents.

(d) Based on the findings of the enquiry committees which probe into the incidence of each fatal accident at the concerned plant/unit, the cause of each accident is identified and measures are recommended to prevent the recurrence of similar accidents in future. These include *inter-alia* (i) development and adherence to safe operating and maintenance procedures; (ii) spreading safety awareness through training programmes and workshops for employees and contractors; (iii) enforcing usage of job specific personal protective equipment; (iv) provision of automatic gas leak detection alarm in critical and gas prone areas; (v) conducting periodic mock drills as per emergency plan.

(e) and (f) The average annual expenditure on maintenance (including that incurred on change in pipeline, electrical repair and mechanical maintenance, store and spares and remuneration to maintenance employees) at different plants of SAIL and RINL for last three years and current year (April to December, 2010) is given as under:

Plant/Unit	(Rs. in crore)			
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 (April to December, 2010)
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Steel Authority of India Ltd.</b>				
Bhilai Steel Plant	1795.96	2032.60	1695.75	1391.63
Durgapur Steel Plant	616.34	684.43	547.11	387.44
Rourkela Steel Plant	772.49	792.20	798.77	663.11
Bokaro Steel Plant	1143.46	1270.45	1178.62	830.15
IISCO Steel Plant	339.26	348.58	321.83	252.22
Alloy Steel Plant	118.13	133.69	142.36	108.86

1	2	3	4	5
Salem Steel Plant	37.68	40.25	39.77	31.89
Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant	70.33	57.75	53.95	42.22
Raw Materials Division and other Units	137.97	164.50	83.49	117.59
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	632.23	860.23	858.49	622.31

#### Restriction on export of iron

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that restriction on the export of iron, is under consideration;
- (b) if so, the names of the States which have raised this demand; and
- (c) whether Government is duly considering, or would consider these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister of Karnataka in July, 2010 had *inter-alia* requested the Central Government for restricting export of iron ore. With a view to conserve iron ore, which is a natural resource, the Government of India has increased the ad-valorem export duty on iron ore with effect from 1st March, 2011 to 20% on all sorts of iron ore (other than pellets).

#### Loss of employment in handloom and textile sectors

897. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that handloom and textile sectors which provide employment to lakhs of workers are facing a serious situation resulting in loss of employment to large number of workers;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to alleviate the crisis; and
- (c) the outcome of the measures, if any, taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government of India is aware that handloom weavers are facing problems due to increase in prices of raw material and chocking of credit lines. As per Third Handloom Census 2009-10, 43.32 lakh persons are engaged in weaving and allied activities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.