

(a) the details of total sanctioned staff strength in the Ministry, Group-wise i.e. Group A to Group D;

(b) the number of jobs earmarked for SC/ST category as per Government of India's reservation policy out of the total strength; and

(c) the reasons, if any, for the staff strength not being in accordance with the reservation policy of Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) After implementation of the 6th Pay Commission's recommendations all the Group 'D' staff has been upgraded to Group 'C' with Grade Pay of Rs.1800/-. Accordingly, the total sanctioned staff strength in the Ministry of Steel, Group-wise, is as under :

Group	Sanctioned strength
A	47
B	104
C	130
Total	281

(b) and (c) At the prescribed level 15% of the sanctioned posts are earmarked for SC category and 7.5% for ST category. Necessary rosters for monitoring the vacancies are maintained in the Ministry for reporting to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). Accordingly, all the cadre posts of Group A, B and C staff in the Ministry are being filled through nominations received from the DoPT. There are five senior Technical Officers in the Ministry, in ex-cadre posts, of which one belongs to SC category.

#### **Joint venture between Sail and Posco**

1211. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has proposed a joint venture between Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Posco for establishing mega steel in Odisha; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) At present, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has no proposal for a joint venture with POSCO for establishing mega steel plant in Odisha.

(b) Does not arise.