

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The "in-principle" approval for setting up of a steel processing unit (SPU) at district Gaya in Bihar was accorded by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) Board in June, 2008. SAIL has acquired 27.3 acres of agricultural land in November, 2008, for the steel processing unit (SPU) at Village - Atu situated in Wazirganj block of Gaya district.

(c) Soil investigation and site survey work has been completed. The clearance from Government of Bihar for change of land use *i.e.* from Agricultural land (at present) to Industrial land is awaited. The further course of action for the project will follow once the permission for change of land use is accorded by the State Government.

Promotion of R&D in iron and steel sector

2607. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scheme 'Promotion of Research and Development in Iron and Steel Sector' is still moving at snail's pace without adequate fiscal allocation for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons for lethargic functioning of this scheme which was initiated specifically to increase steel production and to reduce dependency on the imported cooking coal;

(c) the steps taken by Government for optimum functioning of this programme and fiscal allocation estimated during the current year; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Steel Industry, a new scheme *i.e.* Scheme for Promotion of R&D in Iron and Steel Sector with an outlay of Rs. 118.00 crore has been launched by the Government during Eleventh Five Year plan. Further, it has been decided by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) to pursue R&D on three broad areas namely (i) Development of innovative/path breaking technologies utilizing Indian iron ore fines and non coking coal (ii) Improvement of quality of steels produced through induction furnace route and (iii) Beneficiation of raw materials like iron ore, coal etc. and agglomeration (e.g. Pelletization). The aforesaid R&D scheme was actually approved on 23.01.2009 by Ministry of Finance with an instruction that due to the fag end of the year, the scheme may be operated in the next financial year *i.e.* 2009-10.

Under this scheme, so far, 8 R&D projects, recommended by the Group of Experts, have been approved by the designated Project Approval and Monitoring Committee (PAMC). The total cost of these projects is Rs.143.87 crore, of which, Government grant is Rs.96.23 crore. So far Rs.39.02 crore has been disbursed.

The fiscal allocation for the year 2011-12 is Rs.29.0 crore, against which Rs. 7.84 crore has been released in 4 R&D projects.

Attack by hooligans in Durgapur Steel Plant

2608. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether 23 regular and contract workers were injured within the premises of Durgapur Steel Plant on 10th September, 2011 after attack by armed hooligans;

(b) whether a Member of Parliament had sought intervention of Hon'ble Minister and CMD, SAIL in a letter dated 22 September, 2011;

(c) whether a Deputy General Manager (Personnel) had responded evasively to the same on November 9, 2011.;

(d) whether there is any protocol in the Ministry in responding to a complaint by Member of Parliament;

(e) whether similar incidence of violence has taken place again on November 16, 2011; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) SAIL has reported that an incident of clash between two groups of contract workers within the premises of Durgapur Steel Plant took place on 10.9.2011 in which some contract workers were injured. However, there has been no report about injury to regular employees or attack by armed hooligans.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The reference received from Hon'ble MPs addressed to the Minister is examined in consultation with concerned CPSE/organization before a reply is sent by the Minister. In the instant case, SAIL has apprised to the Hon'ble MP about the factual position and corrective measures taken to avoid the recurrence of such incidents through a communication addressed to the Private Secretary to Hon'ble M.P.

(d) Yes, Sir. The references from Hon'ble MPs, are acknowledged by the Minister and a reply is sent by the Minister upon receipt of the factual position from authority/organization concerned.

(e) and (f) Incident of clash between two groups of contract workers within the plant