

**Import of steel**

4622. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has become a net importer of steel over the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of steel imported during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed by Government to increase indigenous production of steel in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. India is a net importer of total finished steel since 2007-08.

(b) and (c) Data on import, export and net import of total finished steel for the last three years and April, 2012 is shown in the table below:

Year	Total Finished Steel		(million tonnes or mt)
	(a) Import	(b) Export	Net Import (a-b)
2009-10	7.382	3.251	4.131
2010-11	6.664	3.637	3.027
2011-12*	6.826	4.041	2.785
April, 2012*	0.545	0.312	0.233

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC); \*provisional;

(d) Steel is a de-regulated sector. In a de-regulated, open market economy, the role of the Government is that of a facilitator and in that capacity, it promotes/ encourages growth of steel industry through suitable policy measures. In order to promote the domestic steel industry, the Government has framed the National Steel Policy and constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to monitor and coordinate the issues concerning major steel investments in the country related to infrastructure, raw material supply, environmental clearance and other resource constraints.