

humidity and temperature, total precipitable water, sea surface temperature over Indian Ocean, outgoing radiation etc. The satellite is scheduled for launch during 2013.

The data obtained from this satellite along with ground based observations would help to derive information about climatic conditions, including rain.

Fund earmarked for SCSP and TSP

2894. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds earmarked for Schedule Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) during last five financial year as per guidelines issued by Planning Commission *vide* its letter dated 26th December, 2006;

(b) if no such fund were earmarked during the last five years, reasons therefor;

(c) whether separate Budget Head has been opened for SCSP and TSP for financial year 2011-12. as mandated by the Department of Expenditure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) Space Programmes are planned and implemented on a National basis and are not considered on the basis of Region, State, Category, etc.

Removal of import duty on steel

2895. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had written to the Ministry of Finance seeking removal of import duty on steel;

(b) whether the Ministry of Finance has agreed to remove import duty on iron ore lumps, fines and pellets;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the development assumes significance because the Supreme Court impose mining ban in Karnataka and Goa and also the regulation of mining by Odisha Government have severely affected the availability of iron ore; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Finance has not removed import duty on iron ore lumps, fines and pellets. The present import duty on iron ore (including fines, lumps and pellets) is 2.5%.

(d) and (e) At present, production of iron ore in the country is in excess of the total estimated domestic consumption by the iron and steel industry. During the year 2011-12, the country's total production of iron ore was 169.66 million tonnes (provisional) as against the total estimated consumption of about 116.3 million tonnes by domestic iron and steel industry. Therefore, overall there is no scarcity of iron ore for domestic iron and steel industry.

License to private companies to establish steel factory

2896. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) how many private companies are given license to establish a steel factory in the country, till date;

(b) how many of them have started producing steel, till date; and

(c) the amount of loans given by Public Sector Banks to these private companies on the ground that these companies have to produce steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (c) Steel is a de-regulated sector. As such no license is required from the Ministry of Steel for installation of a steel factory in the country. Main private steel producers include TATA Steel, Essar Steel, Jindal Steel and Power, JSW Steel, Bhushan Power and Steel, Bhushan Steel *etc.* There are several medium and small steel units in the country including mini blast furnace, sponge iron units, induction furnace units and rolling mills. Total number of such units is approximately 3647, as per the last survey conducted by Joint Plants Committee in 2009-10. About 77.5% steel is produced by the private sector steel companies. The information about loans given by the Public Sector Banks to private steel companies is not maintained by the Ministry of Steel.