

product has been carried out in Stage-I expansion and installation of two new Finishing Mills, viz. Special Bar Mill and Structural Mill to produce additional 1.45 MTPA of finished steel has been carried out in Stage-II expansion of VSP. Under Stage-I of expansion major units, viz., Blast Furnace, Turbo Blower-4, Oxygen Plant etc. had already been commissioned. Several auxiliary systems viz. Oxygen Plant, Water System, Power System, Utility System etc. have also been commissioned and under operation. Balance units of Stage-I are planned to be commissioned progressively by end of the current financial year. In both the Special Bar Mill and Structural Mill of Stage-II expansion, almost all the supplies have been completed. Major Civil and Structural works are complete and the equipment erection is in progress. Several related units viz. water system, power system etc. are getting commissioned matching the requirement.

VSP is in the process of modernizing and upgrading its existing facilities to upkeep the health of the existing Blast Furnaces, Converters of Steel Melting Shop and Sinter Machines. In the process of modernization, production capacity will go up to 7.3 MTPA.

- (c) Not Applicable, in view of replies at (a) and (b) above.

Recruitment in BSP

†2279. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state;

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) is number one in the field of production and import;
- (b) if so, the reasons for no new recruitment of workers there;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the officers and workers are being retired before superannuation; and
- (d) whether Government would provide the figures of officers and workers thus retired before superannuation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) is number one steel plant in production amongst all integrated steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). BSP does not import any steel.

- (b) BSP has recruited 1,713 non-executive employees since the year 2007-08.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Proposal for CFA for tourist destinations in Uttar Pradesh

2280. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government of India has received a proposal from Government of Uttar Pradesh on adopting Carry and Forward Agent (CFA) for erection of signages on the roads leading to tourist destinations in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Question does not arise.

Tourism project sanctioned by Government to Odisha

2281. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of tourism projects sanctioned by Government to Odisha during 2012-13;
- (b) the details of names of project and sanctioned amount;
- (c) whether any other projects requested by the Odisha Government pending with the Ministry;
- (d) what is the reason behind not to sanctioned these projects; and
- (e) the number of tourists visited the State in the last five years, the details of Domestic and foreign tourists thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI) : (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism including festival is undertaken primarily by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, however, extends financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism projects which are prioritized every year based on discussions with them, subject to availability of funds, inter-se-priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines.