

(d) Steel is a deregulated sector. As such, the decision to enter into joint venture/tie-ups/acquisitions/direct investment resulting into flow of FDI into the country, is taken by entrepreneurs based on their review to expand their business. The Government in such cases offers the policy framework, facilitating and encouraging such inflow.

Export of steel from Japan and Korea

731. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan and Korea are increasing the export of steel to India under the Free Trade Agreement;

(b) if so, the quantum of steel exported to India by those countries during the first half of current year and how much it is higher than the corresponding period of the previous year; and

(c) whether the export of such magnitude could hamper the growth of steel industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (c) Import of finished steel from all sources, including Japan and Korea has marginally increased from 6.66 million tonnes in 2010-11 to 6.83 million tonnes in 2011-12 *i.e.* an increase of 2.4%.

During 2011-12, the real consumption of finished steel in the country was 70.92 million tonnes as against the production of 73.42 million tonnes. However, for meeting any mismatch of domestic supply and demand or otherwise, import/ export of finished steel is also permissible.

Reduction in profit of SAIL

732. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that profit of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has been reduced in spite of fact that thousand crores of rupees have been invested in modernisation of various steel plants;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and