

(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

(c) the details of total number of regular and contract labour and officers working in various steel plants, plant-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Profit After Tax (PAT) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during April to September, 2012 at Rs. 1240 crore has been lower by 7.04% over corresponding period last year (April-September 2011) mainly due to adverse impact of input prices, particularly imported coal, salary and wages, higher interest and depreciation, reduction in interest earnings and increase in royalty on minerals, etc. SAIL has undertaken Modernization/Expansion of its Steel Plants/Units at an estimated cost of about Rs. 72,000 crore. The benefits from Modernization/Expansion would start accruing after their completion/ commissioning only.

(c) The plant-wise details of total number of regular employees (executive and non executive) and contract labours working in SAIL are as under:

Plant	Regular employees (as on 1.11.2012)		Contract Labour (as on 31.10.2012)
	Executive	Non-executive	
Bhilai Steel Plant	3767	25350	28377
Rourkela Steel Plant	2211	15814	19029
Durgapur Steel Plant	1645	10713	6900
Bokaro Steel Plant	2708	16856	8973
IISCO Steel Plant	979	7577	13748
Alloy Steel Plant	290	1110	640
Salem Steel Plant	322	1019	203
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant	228	816	1077

Irregularities in selliong of iron ore

733. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state: