

the Ministry of Steel, namely, Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) and the Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited (BSLC) involving accumulated loss of Rs. 1630 crore approximately. Reasons for losses are unplanned induction of manpower, slowdown in steel sector, non-availability of mining equipments, irregular market demand etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Reopening of iron ore mines

1209. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steel making companies have sought the intervention of Government in reopening of iron ore mines in Karnataka following the order of Supreme Court, which closed on account of fresh duties and shortage of raw material;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government in reopening of Karnataka iron ore mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (c) Some iron and steel companies and industry associations such as Karnataka Iron and Steel Manufacturer's Association had requested Ministry of Steel for intervention in reopening of iron ore mines in Karnataka, which had been closed as per orders of Supreme Court. Ministry of Steel has informed Supreme Court about the requirement of iron ore of iron and steel industry located in and around Karnataka. The matter was also taken up with the Government of Karnataka. Supreme Court has now permitted some mines in Karnataka to reopen.

Expansion and modernisation of steel plants

1210. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme for the expansion and modernisation of various steel plants has been initiated by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to meet the growing demand of steel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its current status;