

(c) whether the mines given to above PSUs are sufficient to meet their production targets; and

(d) if not, the efforts his Ministry has made or going to make to provide mines to such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) There are two steel producing Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) namely, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) under the Ministry of Steel.

(b) SAIL is operating nine iron ore mines, seven flux mines (Limestone and Dolomite) and three coal mines in the States of Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal for captive use. In addition to these, SAIL also have Rowghat iron ore deposit and Dolomite deposit at Baraduar in Chhattisgarh and two coking coal blocks, namely, Tasra and Sitanala in Jharkhand. RINL has no attached iron ore or coal mines but it has got four flux mines (one each of Dolomite, Limestone, Manganese and Sand) in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) SAIL is meeting its iron ore requirement through captive sources. Due to limited availability of coking coal from captive and indigenous sources about 75% of SAIL's requirement of coking coal is met through imports and about 25% of coking coal requirement is sourced from domestic supply. RINL is meeting its iron ore requirement through domestic supply and its coking coal requirement largely through imports. These companies are by and large meeting their production targets. However, necessary efforts are made by the Government from time to time in getting allotment of new mines from the concerned State Governments for these companies.

Accident in Vizag Steel Plant

2753. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the worst industrial accidents in steel industry took place in Vizag Steel Plant in June this year where twenty people were charred to death;

(b) if so, the details of the accident;

- (c) the reasons behind accident;
- (d) the action the Ministry has taken on the culprits; and
- (e) the reasons that in the recently released data by Centre for Science and Environment green ratings, VSP is at the rock bottom?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 13th June 2012 while commissioning Converter-1 of Steel Melting Shop-2 in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), an accident took place due to explosion in the Oxygen Pressure Reducing Station-3. 19 people lost their lives. Among the victims 12 were employees of RINL-VSP while 4 and 3 were the employees of Consultant and Contractors respectively.

(c) and (d) Government of India constituted a High Level Committee to investigate the incident and to make necessary recommendations to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future. The recommendations made by the committee are taken into consideration while finalizing the new specification for revival of the unit. The inquiry was also got done by Directorate of Factories by a three member committee and RINL has taken actions for compliance of recommendations. A training programme was also exclusively got conducted on 'Prevention of Fire in Oxygen enriched systems' by a renowned professor from IIT, Kharagpur. Safety department has been further strengthened with appointment of an Executive Director.

(e) RINL is one of the top 3 steel companies as rated by Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi. RINL has also been awarded '3 leaves' and is rated among the top three performing steel plants in respect of environment by Centre for Science and Environment.

Loss of NMDC due to non-revision of iron ore prices

†2754. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) had to incur loss of crores of rupees during 2007-2010 as prices of iron ores were not revised according to the market prices;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.