

Bilateral cooperation with Srilanka over space related activity

2912. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state : whether Government is planning to discuss with Sri Lankan authorities over the possible bilateral cooperation in the space related activities, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Yes Sir. As part of bilateral cooperation between India and Sri Lanka, the "India-Sri Lanka Joint Committee for Science and Technology" had two meetings; the first in New Delhi followed by the second in Colombo. Topics of mutual interest in the field of Science and Technology including space based communication, remote sensing applications and building of small satellites were discussed. Sri Lankan Authorities expressed that they would identify the Institutions in their country to work with Indian Institutions as part of cooperation in Science and Technology including space related activities. Department of Space is awaiting responses of Sri Lankan authorities for further action.

Decline in sale/profit of NMDC

†2913. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sale and net profit of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) has substantially declined in the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to improve the profit and turnover of NMDC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the target set for the next three years and the steps taken in this regard?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) and (b) The details of the performance of the company over the last three years are given below:

Sl.No.	Particulars	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
1.	Sales (Qty in LMT)	263.15	273.01	262.74
2.	Sales (Rs. in crores)	11368.94	11261.89	10704.27
3.	Net Profit (Rs. in crores)	6499.22	7265.39	6342.37

The sales and net profit of NMDC Ltd. have consistently increased year by year, except 2012-13. The decrease in the sales and net profit of NMDC during 2012-13 was on account of recessionary conditions prevailing in the national and international market resulting in drop in the price of iron ore in both international and national market. As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement, the company's expenditure in the year 2012-13 increased by Rs. 337.13 crores being 10% of the sales proceeds at Donimalai Sector towards contribution to SPV in Karnataka.

(c) and (d) Iron ore Mining is a deregulated sector and Government does not interfere in the Commercial Activities of NMDC Ltd.

Accidents in steel plants

2914. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number and nature of accidents that took place in various steel plants in the country during the last three years and the current year, plant-wise;

(b) the number of persons injured/died and total loss of property in these accidents during the said period;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the injured persons and families of the deceased persons in such cases;

(d) the average annual expenditure on the maintenance of these plants and maintenance of equipments during the said period; and