

- (xi) Thickness of the gas lines is being measured periodically by NDT in order to take corrective actions.
- (xii) All the corroded gas lines are being changed with proper shutdowns.
- (xiii) Gas safety van is available round the clock. Gas Safety personnel are posted round the clock in different zones.
- (xiv) Third party Risk Assessment and studies are being conducted for all the newly commissioning units.
- (xv) Dedicated hot line communication system has been established between Blast Furnace, BF Gas Cleaning Plant and Pump House to ensure immediate action.

Expansion of capacity of steel industry

3063. SHRI R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has ventured into expansion of capacity of steel industry in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (c) Steel is a deregulated sector and the decisions regarding setting up of new steel plants and expansion of existing steel plants are taken by the project proponents, keeping in view the market dynamics and techno-economic viability of the project.

Plan to promote foreign tourists

†3064. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the plans to promote foreign tourists in the country;
- (b) whether the number of foreign tourists has declined during the last ten years and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether some countries have issued advisory to their citizens not to visit India and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, as part of its on-going activities, annually releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.