

Selling of shares by public sector oil companies to private sector

†1095. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies are selling their shares to the private sector; and

(b) if so, the Public Sector Undertaking-wise details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. As per information available from Oil PSUs, at present, there is no such proposal before them.

(b) Does not arise.

Advantages being given to POSCO vis-a-vis indian steel makers

1096. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in the name of attracting FDI, POSCO of South Korea is being given several advantages which are likely to discriminate against the Indian steel makers in terms of firm commitment of raw material, a port in close proximity of a major port and SEZ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ensure a level playing field for the Indian steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) Steel is a deregulated sector. Investments and production in the Steel projects are, therefore, results of conscious decisions of the concerned investors based on commercial prudence and market dynamics. Ministry of Steel plays the role of a facilitator and coordinator between steel investors and the Central/ State Governments.

Reopening of Gua iron ore mines in Jharkhand

1097. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gua iron ore mines situated in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand have been closed since 15 June, 2011 for want of environmental and forest clearances from Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.