

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) LNG is not produced in the country instead it is imported from overseas. The demand of LNG is price sensitive. LNG is imported by different entities under Open General License keeping in view the demand conveyed directly to them by concerned buyers. The average daily consumption of LNG during 2015-16 was 58.17 MMSCMD.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Projected investment to be made by SAIL

1256. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total projected investment to be made by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in the current expansion and modernization programme;

(b) the likely share for the special and alloy steel plants; and

(c) whether there is any long term plan to increase SAIL's presence and market share in special and alloy steel market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has undertaken modernisation and expansion with an indicative investment of around ₹ 72,000 crore which includes a provision of ₹ 10,264 crore towards development of mines.

(b) Modernization and expansion plan of SAIL includes an investment of ₹ 1902 crore towards modernisation and expansion of Salem Steel Plant.

(c) Given the present market conditions, SAIL plans to improve its presence and market share in the special steel and alloy market through strategies to reduce cost of production through reducing input costs, increasing order availability, liquidation of old stocks etc.

Financial package to help revive steel sector

1257. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is readying a financial package to help revive the steel sector and prevent bank loans advanced to steel firms from turning bad, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry is working with Ministry of Finance on the package;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government's move comes after similar efforts in the road and power sectors and it comes even as the banking system faces considerable stress from non-performing assets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (e) Indian Steel Associations and Indian Chamber of Commerce have sent representations to Ministry of Steel for working out a suitable comprehensive package to support steel sector. Their representations have been forwarded to Department of Financial Services.

Capacity enhancement of Gua iron ore mines in Jharkhand

1258. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gua Iron Ore Mines situated in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand have been planning to enhance its production capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been envisaged for enhancement of production;

(d) the quantum of outlay earmarked for inducting new machinery and technology; and

(e) the details of the targets of production enhancement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has taken up a project to enhance the capacity of the Gua iron ore mine to a level of 10 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) consisting of 1.80 mtpa lumps, 4.2 mtpa fines and 4.0 mtpa pellets to meet the enhanced requirement of steel plants. It has also been decided to setup beneficiation and pelletisation plant facilities. The total envisaged outlay for the project is ₹ 4749 crore. Letter of Award for the main package consisting of crushing plant, downhill conveyor; a beneficiation plant and pellet plant module has been awarded in April, 2014.