

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

(c) As per Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended by the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, the State Governments have been empowered to grant mining leases through the method of auction under Section 10A or through the reservation route under section 17A (2A) of the Act. Therefore, allocation of new mining lease is to be regulated as per the provisions laid down in the amendment Act.

Plants commissioned for utilisation of iron ore fines

451. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of plants commissioned for utilisation of low grade and finer iron ore fines since 2000; and

(b) the details of these plants thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) The number of units, capacity and production for pellet plants, sponge iron plants and plants having Blast Furnace (BF/BOF) in the country and in operation since 2000 are given below:-

Segment	No. of Units	Capacity (million tonnes)	Production (million tonnes)	Ref Year
Pellet	33	66.30	27.64	2013-14
Sponge Iron	330	42.00	22.40	2015-16 (provisional)
BF/BOF*	14	46.92	37.08	2015-16 (provisional)

*represents the Oxygen route.

Source: JPC.

Incentivising international players to invest in domestic steel companies

452. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is preparing a bail-out for the steel sector;

(b) if so, the details of the value of the bail-out package and if not, the reasons therefor;