

Month	2015	2016
March	55.18	36.42
April	59.07	39.88
May	63.82	45.01
June	61.75	46.96
July	56.30	43.52

Note - The Indian basket of Crude Oil represents a derived basket comprising of Sour grade (Oman & Dubai average) and Sweet grade (Brent Dated) of Crude oil processed in Indian refineries in the ratio of processing in the previous year.

(d) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) purchase crude oil based on the price in the international markets. The price of finished products in India is linked to their price in the international markets. The spread (crack margin) between the price of crude oil and petroleum products is linked to the gross profits of refineries. The overall profitability position of oil PSUs depends upon various other general and specific factors including inventory losses.

Captive iron ore and coal mines for VSP

2761. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) has applied or sought 'captive iron ore and coal mines' for its profitable operations;

(b) what is the status of such applications of captive iron ore and captive coal mines;

(c) what are the reasons for not allotting captive iron ore mines for VSP;

(d) what are the other steps required to fully use the plant machinery and huge land mass available with Visakhapatnam Steel Plant; and

(e) its present production and total steel produced in 2015-16?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (c) Prior to amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) had filed 29 applications for allotment of iron ore mines in various States out of which Letter of Intent (LoI) has been given by Government of Rajasthan for one Iron Ore Block in Banera Tehsil, Bhilwara District of Rajasthan. The rest of the

applications became ineligible subsequent to the enactment of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015.

Applications made subsequent to the amendment Act of 2015, are regulated as per the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended by the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, wherefrom 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, allocations of new mining lease are to be regulated as per the provisions laid down in the amendment Act.

(d) RINL-VSP has completed its capacity expansion from 3.0 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of liquid steel to 6.3 mtpa. Resources available with RINL are required for planned modernization and capacity expansions of the plant.

(e) Production of saleable steel in the first quarter of 2016-17 was 0.85 million tonnes. The production of Saleable Steel in 2015-16 was 3.51 million tonnes.

Target for production, consumption and export of steel

†2762. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target set and achieved with regard to production, domestic consumption and export of steel during the last three years and in the current year, year-wise;

(b) whether the revised targets for the next three years in this regard have been set, if so, the details of the revised targets; and

(c) whether steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by Government to increase the production and export of steel in the coming years, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) Steel is a deregulated sector and Government does not set any target for production, domestic consumption and export of steel.

(c) Steel is a deregulated sector and the role of Government is limited to that of a facilitator. The decisions in respect of production and exports of steel are taken by the individual producers based on specific commercial and financial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.