

namely Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) along with other steel sector companies are facing global demand slowdown. The global overcapacity and demand slowdown has *inter-alia* placed price pressure on domestic producers.

To alleviate the problems faced by the Steel industry, Government of India has taken several measures which *inter-alia* include imposition of Minimum Import Price (MIP), imposition of safeguard duty, amendment of Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control Order, 2012) etc.

Inferior quality of steel produced in the country

139. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the lack of modern technological and capital inputs and weak infrastructural facilities leads to a process of steel making which is more time consuming, expensive and yields inferior variety of goods in the country and situation forces us to import better quality steel from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): The techno-economic performance parameters of some of the older steel plants in the country are not at par with the global standards. Indian Steel Industry has taken massive modernisation and expansion programmes for improving the techno-economic parameters at par with global standards. The Indian steel industry is able to produce superior quality steel as per the domestic requirements as well as exports except for a very few products. However, Imports are mainly occurring due to excess global supply and dumping by a few countries.

Steel industry suffering from lack of technology

140. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel industry in the country is suffering from lack of technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the initiative of Government to improve the technology support and labour productivity to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) The technological profile of some of the older steel plants in the country is not at par with the global standards. However, Indian steel Industry has taken up substantial modernisation and expansion programmes for upgrading the technological profile which is at par with best available technologies globally.

(c) Ministry of Steel is facilitating adoption of state of the art energy efficient technologies by the steel industry, in association with organisations viz. New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), Japan and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India. Ministry of Steel is also facilitating an industry led institutional mechanism viz. Steel Research and Technology Mission of India (SRTMI) to address the research and technology needs of the country.

Setting up of industry driven SRTMI

141. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is facilitating setting up of an industry driven Steel Research and Technology Mission of India (SRTMI) in association with the public and private sector steel companies to spearhead research and development activities in the iron and steel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its management and the estimated combined investment level of turnover in India;

(c) whether the SRTMI meets the international bench mark in the research field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Steel is facilitating an Industry driven institutional mechanism namely Steel Research and Technology Mission of India (SRTMI), to facilitate joint collaborative research projects in the iron and steel sector in India. The salient features of SRTMI are as under:

- SRTMI is an industry driven initiative which has been setup as a Registered Society wherein Ministry of Steel is a facilitator.
- SRTMI will be governed and administered by a Governing Body comprising the steel CEOs, Domain Experts and a representative of Ministry of Steel.
- The executive functioning of SRTMI will be carried out by the Director, SRTMI, who will be assisted by a suitable/appropriate supporting structure.
- Initial corpus for setting up of SRTMI is ₹ 200 crore of which 50% is to be provided by Ministry of Steel and the balance by the participating steel companies.
- Thereafter, the centre will run on yearly contributions from the steel companies based on their turnover of the previous year.