

(b) Government has been taking steps to boost industrial production and growth. These *inter-alia*, include 'Make in India' initiative under which thrust sectors have been identified to provide a push to manufacturing in India, 'Startup India' initiative and 'Ease of Doing Business'. Steps taken to improve ease of doing business include simplification and rationalisation of existing rules and introduction of information technology, setting up of an Investor Facilitation Cell, launch of e-biz Portal and liberalising Policy for industrial license for defence industries. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy and Procedures have been simplified and liberalised progressively. Government has taken up a programme of building pentagon of industrial corridors across the country with an objective to provide developed land and quality infrastructure for development of industrial townships.

Removal of disturbed State tag on Punjab

*7. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to remove disturbed State tag invoked on Punjab during militancy period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) Presently, no area of the State of Punjab is declared as 'disturbed area' either under the Punjab Disturbed Areas Act, 1983 or under the Armed Forces (Punjab and Chandigarh) Special Powers Act, 1983.

Privatization of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant

*8. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has requested for privatization of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISL), Bhadravati;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to impress upon SAIL not to go for privatization of VISL against the wishes of workers and Karnataka Government and instead to take steps for its modernization by using latest technology?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government has accorded 'in-principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISL), Bhadravati. The VISL has been consistently making losses for the last 10 years.

(c) SAIL is continually investing in VISL, Bhadravati for overall growth and modernisation of the Plant. SAIL has installed a new Blast Furnace, a bloom caster with 1,25,000 tonnes annual capacity and one 30 tonnes New Reheating Furnace for Primary Mill. SAIL has already invested around ₹ 400 crore in the Plant.

Objectives of Automotive Mission Plan, 2026

*9. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of the Automotive Mission Plan, 2026;
- (b) the Ministry's analysis of the challenges that the automotive sector is presently facing;
- (c) whether Government aims to provide incentives for Research and Development investment by automotive industries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ANANT GEETE): (a) The objectives of the Automotive Mission Plan, 2026 include:

- (i) To propel the Indian Automotive Industry to become the engine of the "Make in India" programme.
 - (ii) To make the Indian Automotive Industry a significant contributor to the "Skill India" programme.
 - (iii) Promote safe, efficient and comfortable mobility for every person in the country, with an eye on environmental protection and affordability through both public and personal transport options.
 - (iv) To seek increase net exports of the Indian Automotive Industry several fold.
 - (v) Promote comprehensive and stable policy dispensation for all regulations impacting the industry.
- (b) The challenges faced by the Indian Automotive Industry include, *inter-alia*, sustaining the growth rate; increasing net export of Indian Automotive Industry; improving inspection and certification regime along with well planned urban development and parking infrastructure especially to address the congestion and environmental concerns; improving infrastructure of ports, road transport; keeping the Indian Automotive Industry cost competitive and providing suitable tax and non tax incentives for the same.