

**Steel imports to the country**

1572. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any data for the steel imports to the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Steel being a deregulated sector, the role of Government is limited to that of a facilitator for the growth of steel industry in the country. Production, export, import etc. of various steel items, therefore, are the sole decision of individual steel producers depending on various commercial considerations and the Government is not maintaining any data on these. Data maintained by the Joint Plant Committee (JPC), a body functioning under the Government, relating to import of finished steel and semis during the last few years, are given below:-

(in '000 tons)

Year	Import of Finished Steel	Import of Semis
2011-12	6863	514
2012-13	7925	518
2013-14	5450	43
2014-15	9321	331
2015-16	11712	512
2016-17	6100	279
(upto Jan.'17)		

**Low potential utilisation in steel industry**

1573. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the steel industry the potential utilisation in iron and steel is very low, rarely the potential utilisation exceeds 80 per cent, for example Durgapur Steel Plant utilizes only 50 per cent of its potential; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and factors for such low potential utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) The crude steel capacity utilization reported for the industry as a whole stands below 80% in the recent period, the same for Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) is much higher than 50% as shown in the table below:—