

(b) whether it is a fact that SAIL failed to meet the demand for rails to the tune of 2,50,000 tonnes in 2016, if so, details thereof;

(c) what is the cumulative expenditure by SAIL for various modernisation and expansion till date; and

(d) what steps are taken by Government to increase the domestic demand of steel after completion of 70,000 crore modernisation programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Initially for 2016-17, Railway Board placed a bulk indent on Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for supply of 6,24,516 tonnes of Rails, which was met by SAIL and it supplied 6,20,049 tonnes of Rails during 2016-17 to the Indian Railways. However, the enhanced requirement of Railways *i.e.* supply of 8,20,000 tonnes of Rails during the year could not be met due to capacity constraints. With the ramping up of the new 1.2 million tonne Universal Rail Mill at Bhilai Steel Plant, SAIL has now capacity to meet additional demand of Indian Railways.

(c) The cumulative expenditure incurred by SAIL towards Modernisation and Expansion, Mines and related sustenance schemes, till June, 2017 is ₹ 65,822 crore.

(d) The Government has launched the 'Make-in-India' initiative to focus on manufacturing and infrastructure, which promotes the demand and consumption of steel in the country. The Government on 08.05.2017 has notified the National Steel Policy, 2017 and the policy for providing preference to Domestically Manufactured Iron and Steel Products (DMI&SP) in Government procurement. These policies provide conducive environment for development of iron and steel sector.

Steps to increase consumption of steel

1258. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is increasing use of plastic in place of steel due to which steel consumption has decreased drastically; and

(b) whether Government will come forward to arrest this trend and take necessary steps to increase the consumption of steel in the country which is very low compared to the world average of 225 kg.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Data on consumption of steel for the last three years is given below, which indicates the increasing trends in consumption of total finished steel:—

Year	Consumption of total finished Steel (MT)
2014-15	76.99
2015-16	81.52
2016-17*	83.65
April-May 2017	13.79

* provisional,
MT-million tonnes.

Source: JPC.

National Steel Policy, 2017 and policy for providing preference to Domestically Manufactured Iron and Steel products have been notified on 8th May, 2017 which provide conducive environment for development of domestic steel sector leading to increased consumption of steel in the country.

Recession in Steel Industry

1259. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about the recession in Steel Industry; and
- (b) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) Recession is a situation in which there is absolute decline in production for a sustained period of time. The domestic steel industry, however, has shown growth in both crude steel production and finished steel consumption as per details given below:—

Year	Crude Steel Production (in MT)	Growth %	Total finished steel consumption (in MT)	Growth%
1	2	3	4	5
2013-14	81.69	4.2	74.09	0.8
2014-15	88.98	8.9	76.99	3.9