

Administrative reforms to achieve objectives of the Ministry

1104. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any new and specific policy initiative after June, 2014 to achieve the overall objectives of the Ministry, if so, the details of these initiatives and what is the overall impact of these initiatives; and

(b) whether Government has introduced any major administrative reforms specifically to achieve the objectives of the Ministry in its functioning after May, 2014 and if so, the details thereof and what has been their impact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) The Government has *inter alia* taken following major policy initiatives and administrative steps since 2014:

- (i) Notification of National Steel Policy, 2017 (NSP 2017) on 8th May, 2017.
- (ii) Notification of Domestically Manufactured Iron and Steel Products (DMI and SP) Policy on 8th May, 2017.
- (iii) In order to address the challenge of unfair trade, the Government took trade measures such as anti-dumping duties, safeguard duties.
- (iv) Imposed temporary introduction of Minimum Import Price in 2016.
- (v) Notified the Quality Control Orders which makes the use of BIS standards mandatory for all steel products and imports.

As a result of the above measures the dumping of cheap steel products in the country was contained and price realisation improved. Further, Import of total finished steel during the year 2016-17 has declined by 38.3% over the previous year 2015-16 and the export of total finished steel has increased by 102% in the year 2016-17 over the previous year.

Preference to domestically produced iron and steel

1105. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to give preference to domestically produced iron and steel in Government purchases in a bid to buoy the industry that has been complaining of pressure from cheap imports from China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that cheap imports and depressed demand have also impacted the finances of several steel companies which in turn are finding it difficult to repay loan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) The Government has notified Policy for Providing Preference to Domestically Manufactured Iron and Steel Products in Government procurement on 8th May, 2017. This policy provides preference to specified goods with specified minimum value addition in Government procurement.

(c) and (d) The global slowdown in 2014-15 and over capacity at global level resulted in low international steel prices. The steel producers in countries with over capacity resorted to dumping their products. Between January, 2014 and March, 2016, global steel prices declined by about 35%. Imports of finished steel in India in 2014-15 increased by 71% and another 26% in 2015-16 (year on year). Such imports and low price had adversely affected the earning margins of domestic steel producers thereby affecting including their debt services capability.

National Steel Institutes

1106. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) how many National Steel Institutes are there in the country, State-wise;

(b) out of those, how many are so far upgraded to National Centre of Excellence with the status of deemed university;

(c) whether the upgradation to certain such institutes are pending for not obtaining feasibility report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame by which the upgradation will be over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) There are two National Steel Institutes, *viz*, National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology (NISST) located in Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab and Biju Patnaik National Steel Institute (BPNSI) located at Puri, Odisha.

(b) None of these institutes has been upgraded to National Centre of Excellence with the status of Deemed University.