

Steel plant at Bayyaram

1412. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has constituted a Task Force for establishing an integrated steel plant at Bayyaram, Khammam district in Telangana, as the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) stated that the plant is not viable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Task Force and the present status of establishment of steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (c) In terms of the Thirteenth Schedule of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) was to examine the feasibility of establishing an integrated steel plant at Bayyaram in Khammam district of Telangana. As per the feasibility report submitted by SAIL on 02.12.2014, the setting up of steel plant is prima facie not financially viable.

Subsequently, a Task Force has been constituted on 19.10.2016 comprising of representatives from the Central and concerned State Governments, SAIL, RINL, NMDC Ltd., MECON Ltd. and MSTC Ltd. to suggest a road map for setting up of Steel Plants in Khammam district of Telangana. In the last meeting of the Task Force held on 27.12.2017, it was decided that the concerned State Government would share with MECON the data for preparation of report and work out realistic assumptions based on which MECON would complete the Project Report.

Marketing policy of SAIL

1413. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) proposes to put in revamped marketing policy with a view to grab a larger share in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (c) According to domestic consumption data given by Joint Plant Committee

(JPC), market share of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during April-Dec., 2017 was 14.9%. SAIL'S marketing policies are, *inter alia*, focused on maximizing revenue and minimizing inventory. Strategies are formulated and initiatives are taken from time to time in this direction. With the increase in production, SAIL is geared up to increase its market share.

Expansion of list of countries for Visa-on-Arrival

†1414. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has expanded the list of countries under the scope of Visa-on-Arrival;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the list;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the status of influx of international tourists for the last two years, year-wise; and
- (e) the places where the international tourists visit upon their arrival in the country, and the number of tourists who visited these places in last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) to (c) At present Visa-on-Arrival facility is provided only for the nationals of Japan. Expansion of the scheme to more countries is a continuous process which is done after appropriate consultation with all stakeholders.

(d) and (e) The Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) to India during 2016 and 2017 were 8.80 million and 10.18 million (provisional) respectively. The International Tourist Arrivals (ITAs) to India during 2015 and 2016 were 13.3 million and 14.6 million, respectively. ITAs for 2017 are not available.

The number of Foreign Tourist Visits (FTVs) to different States/Union Territories during 2015 and 2016 are given in the Statement (*See below*). The information for 2017 is not available. Ministry of Tourism does not compile FTVs destination-wise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.