

(b) if so, the details of such alternative plans and the reasons for their falling short of the requirements; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (c) The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has taken several significant steps to make Alloy Steel Plant (ASP) competitive and improve the financial performance including capital investment to improve the facilities; production optimization and product-mix improvement; growth in techno-economic parameters; and reduction in logistic cost for transportation of Raw Materials and Finished Steel.

However, despite several steps taken by SAIL, ASP has been consistently making losses during last five years due to high cost of production arising out of ageing equipment, lower productivity, high manpower cost, increased competition, lower demand, etc.

Employment of labourers of ASP, Durgapur

3021. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has plan to ensure the employment of existing labour at the Alloy Steel Plant (ASP) in Durgapur after the disinvestment of the steel plant;

(b) if so, the process through which Government plans to ensure the same for regular and contractual labour;

(c) if not, whether Government has alternative plans to provide employment for labourers who will lose their jobs due to disinvestment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (d) The Government has accorded 'in-principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Durgapur. The terms and conditions of the strategic sale would suitably address the employees' concerns in the Share Purchase Agreement and Share Holders Agreement at appropriate time during strategic disinvestment.

Modernisation and expansion plan of SAIL

3022. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge amount has been spent so far by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) on modernisation and expansion programmes of its projects;